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**MESSAGE FROM A CARDINAL SICK WITH CORONAVIRUS
TO HIS DIOCESAN MEMBERS,
HIS CHRISTIAN AND NON-CHRISTIAN FRIENDS.**

“Father, I surrender to you. Do with me what you will. Whatever you do with me, I thank you, I am ready for all, I accept everything, provided your will be done” (Blessed Charles De FOUCAULD).

Dear beloved brothers and sisters, in the morning of Monday 30 March, I received from the doctors the result of my corona virus test done 48 hours earlier, in which I tested positive. I thus joined an innumerable crowd of patients confined to hospitals all over the world for health care. This is not something that only happens to others!

First of all, I would like to thank my close Archdiocesan collaborators, my Presbyterium, the Bishops of Episcopal Conference of Burkina/Niger, the Nunciature, Men and Women Religious and my diocesan members for their effective and affective solicitude towards me. Then, I express my deep gratitude to the state and private medical professionals who took care of me with self-sacrifice and professionalism.

A huge crowd close or remote of the faithful, relatives, friends and acquaintances (Catholics, Muslims, protestants and followers of traditional religion, customary, political and administrative authorities) expressed their solidarity with me: some through a phone call, some others through messages, some people by proposing remedies for my illness, others by organizing novenas of prayers for me, etc...Considering these expressions of solidarity and compassion, I can only exclaim: Who am I to deserve such a great and kind attention, both physical/material and spiritual? Thank you to everyone and I employ the Lord to keep us always united with one another on such moment in life!

Our Lord Jesus Christ offered his life on the Cross for the Redemption of the world: with Him and following Him, I willingly offer in this time of trial my daily prayer mostly:

- For all patients with Covid-19 or affected by other diseases;
- For preventing all killings of innocent peoples perpetrated by the forces of evil;
- For the reconciliation, justice and peace in Burkina Faso.

Moreover, I feel very privileged to have enjoyed good health care. So I would like from the bottom of my heart as a pastor to cry out for support in favor of a profound impetus of solidarity, both locally, regionally and internationally for patients with Covid-19. There is an urgent need for adequate means to save the many human lives affected by the virus! “One finger does not pick up flour”, teaches us an African wise saying. So let us unite to bring this dreadful scourge with untold consequences, to an end in our country and the world.

The situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic generates multifaceted consequences on sanitary, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual levels for everyone. So, as disciples of Christ, let us repeat Peter’s act of trust in him: “Lord to whom are we to go? You have the words of eternal life” (Jo 6, 68).

Dear brothers and sisters, the time of Lent marked by such a pandemic situation has become for everyone a time of humility, total confidence and surrender to our Master who never abandons man. With him, we will be victorious! Though he died, he arose and he is always alive, Alleluia! Let us constantly remain in humble and fervent prayer!

I wish everyone a Holy Easter.

Ouagadougou, the 5th of April 2020

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