

Week 1- Problem of corruption

Opening hymn (Lenten hymn)

Opening prayer

Merciful Father, send forth your Spirit upon us the people of Southern Africa. May we hear anew the voice of Jesus Christ, inviting us to walk with him across the turbulent waters of our time: “Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.”

By the grace of the Holy Spirit empower us to bring comfort to the restless, hope to those who despair, healing to victims of violence and reconciliation where there is division.

May the Holy Spirit heal our families and communities. Grant us ethical and courageous leaders who put the good of the people before their own interest.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to speak the truth with courage, to act justly in all we do, to share with those in need, and always and everywhere to respect your gift of life as we strive to proclaim the values of the Kingdom in solidarity with all people of good will. Amen.

Brief Introduction

One of the problems we are facing in the three countries is the cancer of corruption.

The role of the government and politicians

How satisfied are you with the way the government is handling corruption? What more should the government do to end corruption?

Our role as ordinary citizens and as Christians

Is there a role that we as ordinary citizens and Christians can play to end the culture of bribery and corruption?

Sharing our personal experiences

What has been your personal experience of people demanding or receiving bribes? What has been your personal experience of people

doing less than what they are required at the workplace? What do you think is the root cause of these destructive practices?

How big is this problem in your community and workplace: employers demanding a bribe or sexual favours when one applies for a job or a job promotion? What are you as a Christian doing to address the problem?

Being challenged by the Gospel and the Catholic Social Teaching

“As we get enraged by corruption undertaken by politicians, it must be made clear that acting against it starts with you and me. At a personal level and in our workplaces, we must refuse to be part of corrupt activities.” (Bishop Sithembele Sipuka, Corruption has become South Africa’s other pandemic , Daily Dispatch, 3 September 2020). Ending the culture of bribery and corruption begins with you and me. How do these words challenge you as a Christian?

“Corruption manifests in different ways: use of time for which we are paid for “private gain” is corruption; arriving at the office to hang up your jacket and then leaving to do private businesses is corruption; even using a telephone provided for the purpose of our work to phone family members and friends is corruption?” (Bishop Sithembele Sipuka, Corruption has become South Africa’s other pandemic, Daily Dispatch, 3 September 2020). How do these words challenge you as a Christian?

Action

As an act of repentance, what can I (we) do this week in line with the above sharing?

Spontaneous prayers

Allow time for those who wish to make a petition in prayer on behalf of the group. Our Father ... Hail Mary ...

Closing prayer

God of love show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi. Pray for us. Blessed Benedict Daswa. Pray for us