



#shortenthedistance, March 28th, 2020

Dear friends,

Globally, we are currently experiencing a period of sorrow and concern as the Covid-19 emergency suddenly spread worldwide causing losses and economic instability.

From one day to another, we had to drastically change our lifestyles, cut back on our interpersonal relationships, and some among us have lost their friends and loved ones. We are aware that many of you are facing such a crisis, on top of others, in your own countries as well.

We are all united in this suffering even though this emergency keeps us far from each other and we find ourselves fragile and vulnerable. For this reason, time has come for a slowdown and to raise awareness towards ourselves and others. This is not a time of despair; this is a time of silence, respect, solidarity, sympathy, unity, and care. However, we want you to know that we are not halting the process or underestimating the joint efforts being undertaken until now: we constantly have you, your family, and your friends in our minds and hearts. Your stories, energy, life changing experiences and drive have made us proud and have kept us going, so thank you.

We were called in the city of St. Francis to make a *pact* to change the current economic paradigm and give a soul to the economy of tomorrow. These hard times make us truly understand what fraternity and the common good really are. We're understanding how connected we all are to each other and that no one saves themselves alone. **This is a time of rediscovery of a word very dear to Francis: fraternity.** This pain opens the era of fraternity, the principle forgotten above all by capitalism, and which today we are understanding, living and rediscovering.

For this reason, never as before we need an economy that can slowdown so as not to leave anyone behind, an economy that can welcome and promote the dignity of the least considered, to guard and take care of the earth and to defend the most fragile, turning our wounds into blessings.

Again, **we don't want to and will not stop.** We want to instead increase our commitment, the initiatives, the desire and the expectations of the meeting: it will be more beautiful for us and for the world that now more than ever awaits a different economy.

When the emergency will come to an end, we will still be committed to build up our common future. Together.

Don't lose your hope. Be with us.

The Team

Valentina, Valquíria, Domenico, Lourdes, Giacomo, Federica, Giandonato, Giorgia, Giulia, Loredana, Maurizio, Paolo, Giada, Alessio, Roberta, Andrea, Chiara, Florencia e Maria, a nome di tanti!