

MESSENGER OF

H O P E

COVID-19

What topics are missing according to calls with Senior FBO/ Faith Community leaders from 8 countries?

- Life – not death; focus in COVID-19 must change to survival
- Hope – not fear; physical distancing works to reduce COVID-19 spread
- Connection – not isolation; calls, texts, WhatsApp, for quarantined
- Positive Role model – general prevention, avoid large gatherings
- Caring – safely; for those affected by COVID-19, in our homes, congregations, and community
- Celebration – not stigma; for those who improve, recover
- Influence – builds hope, gratitude, compassion; as faith leaders can use virtual sermons/meetings, messages/radio/TV



For more information, contact Susan Hillis at shillis@cdc.gov

LIFE

- We can have real hope in the face of COVID-19! Most cases of COVID-19 are mild; most people who contract COVID-19 recover; and every person can contribute to preventing new cases by taking simple steps like physical distancing, hand hygiene, covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and wearing a face mask.
- Life is a gift of God that we have the privilege to share, protect and celebrate with and for our brothers and sisters.



LIFE

- COVID-19 can be defeated thanks to our joint efforts – so that we may have life and have it in abundance: clean your hands often; cough or sneeze in your bent elbow; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; limit social gatherings and time spent in crowded places; and, when you are with others, wear a face mask!
- Incredible actions of kindness are taking place around the world to stop the spread of COVID-19. Promote life!
- We can stand together against violence and abuse during COVID-19!



LIFE

- Speak words of kindness and encouragement to your children. They have been heroes during these times!
- Your life matters! Safeguard it.
- Life is a precious gift; treat it as such – we protect ourselves and the members of our faith communities from COVID-19 by wearing face masks; practising regular hand washing; and avoiding large gatherings.
- Let's speak out against violence and abuse in our faith communities. Life is a Gift from God.



HOPE



- Giving people hope is my responsibility as faith leader. Together we can overcome COVID-19 ! **OR** Giving people hope is a key responsibility of faith leaders and the faith community. Together we can overcome COVID-19!
- By following recommended actions like physical distancing, and wearing a face mask, we can stop the spread of COVID-19 together!
- By joining our forces, we can overcome COVID-19.
- May hope, truth, empathy and kindness remain our steadfast rocks.
- Amidst the pain that we continue to endure, we can find the comfort in the stories of hope and solidarity, and continue to see the value in the positive, encouraging lessons that are emerging.

HOPE

- In the face of any challenge, we stand – in compassion, hope and love
- Be strong, courageous and hopeful! Tens of thousands of scientists are working around the clock; researchers are finding creative ways to donate their time, supplies and expertise to defeat COVID-19.
- The search for a COVID-19 vaccine has united the planet's scientific and medical communities in unprecedented ways. Let's unite in prayer to support their efforts!



HOPE

- Be the voice of hope and wisdom in these challenging times – Share evidence based scientific information about COVID-19 in your faith community. **OR** I/we want to be the voice of wisdom in these challenging times: I/we am/are sharing evidence based scientific information about COVID-19 in my/our faith community.
- Be the messenger of hope and solidarity in your faith community **OR** I am/we are the messenger of solidarity in my/our faith community/ies.
- Be Smart. Realize your Dreams – follow recommended actions like frequent hand washing and wearing a face mask – to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19 **OR** I/we want to realize my/our dreams so I/we protect myself/ourselves and my/our loved ones from COVID-19 following recommended actions like frequent hand washing and wearing a face mask
- Hope: Preach hope messages!





CONNECTION



- God is everywhere, He is not quarantined!
- We can be both physically distant AND socially connected – using phones, digital and virtual options.
- If you feel alone, contact us: in our faith community we have set up a support group where people can share their challenges and, together, we identify some solutions to help each other.
- Let's organize ways for community members to reach out to those who live alone or may be in need of food, water, or other supplies.
- In the time of COVID-19, it is the spirit of global togetherness that gives us hope – COVID-19 will be defeated once all people, in all countries, are protected – through our joint actions - from the novel coronavirus.



POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

- Lead by example ! (I) Encourage community members to serve as role models for their family, friends, and the community by following the advice on COVID-19 from the doctors, local health authorities, and the government.
- (I) Encourage your (my) children to practice healthy habits through songs and dances – This is helping them to feel more secure; to better understand how important is their action to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and to learn what meaningful connection is.
- We Youth Faith Leaders stand strong for health.
- Strong men stand – together in health for body and soul. As we pursue our dreams for ourselves, our family, our faith community, our nation!
- Love thy neighbour as yourself!



CARING

- We all need to stay informed of the risks of COVID-19 so that we can protect and care for each other.
- Love your neighbor as yourself! By respecting governments' dispositions to stop the spread of COVID-19, we are loving our neighbor as God does.



- Don't forget: by following the recommendations and measures to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our community from COVID-19, we help those working on the frontline such as nurses and doctors to better support people in need of care
- When I engage in visiting people who are sick, I make sure to wash my hands before and after the visit, and to keep physical distance, even when praying for others. National guidance for facial coverings are essential and we all must follow them!



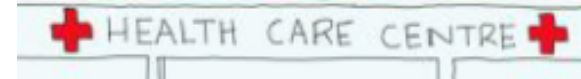
CARING

- No action is too small: Lead by Example – wear a mask; keep physical distance; wash your hands; and PRAY!
- Reach out to show compassion to others during times of lockdowns and limitations on movement.
- Be the instrument of God's presence in people who suffer because of COVID-19. Allow them to feel God's healing touch through our compassionate care.
- We must all set aside time to spend with our children: they will treasure it for the rest of their lives, as will each of us leaders and parents.
- I wear a mask, as an act of LOVE, to protect the elders in my community who are especially at risk



CELEBRATION

- In our faith community we welcome and celebrate health workers and people who have recovered from COVID19.
- Life is a precious gift of God and we are honoured to have people who have recovered from COVID-19 as members of our faith community !
- Real men celebrate health in body and soul!
- We celebrate your victory from recovery!
- We celebrate all front line workers!
- We share compassion and love for those who are ill: they are God's children who are to be celebrated. NEVER to be stigmatized.



CELEBRATION

- (We) Share the beautiful stories of health care workers, volunteers, and people who are recovering from COVID-19.
- There are ever stronger signs of hope and solidarity, a sense of, and desire for togetherness – This has to be celebrated! Share your stories of hope!
- Life is a precious gift from God. Seize every opportunity to cherish the life of those who have recovered from COVID-19



INFLUENCE

We faith leaders are sharing prevention messages to stop the spread of COVID19. Let's live, hope, connect, care and celebrate together!!!

Lead from the front!

