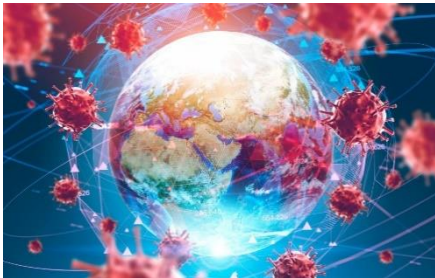


## **First Week of Lent Reflecting on Lessons from the Pandemic**

**prepared by Mary Ann Dooling, osu**

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*"As I was writing this letter, the Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly erupted, exposing our false securities. Aside from the different ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident. For all our hyper-connectivity, we witnessed a fragmentation that made it more difficult to resolve problems that affect us all. Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the need to improve what we were already doing, or refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality."*  
(Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, #7)



Facts re: COVID 19 Pandemic [worldbank.org](https://www.worldbank.org)  
2020 Year in Review

Over the past 12 months, the pandemic has harmed the poor and vulnerable the most, and it is threatening to push millions more into poverty. This year, after decades of steady progress in reducing the number of people living on less than \$1.90/day, COVID-19 will usher in the first reversal in the fight against extreme poverty in a generation.

COVID-19's effects on education could be felt for decades to come, not just causing a loss of learning in the short term, but also diminishing economic opportunities for this generation of students over the long term.

Here is a link to a CNN site with ways to be of help: [CNN COVID help](#).



**Take some time for reflection:**

**How have I felt the fragmentation  
Pope Francis speaks of?  
What are some of the lessons  
to be gleaned personally and communally  
from our experience of the pandemic?**

*copy of the reflection prepared by USA Ursuline JPIC Team*