



Vatican City, January 22, 2021. - Faced with the very serious problems that are arising in relation to the production and distribution of the vaccine for Covid19, the Pontifical Academy for Life strongly reaffirms the urgency of identifying suitable systems for transparency and collaboration.

There is too much antagonism and competition and the risk of severe injustices.

Pope Francis had already addressed an urgent request in the *Urbi et Orbi* Message, on Christmas day, last December 25: " I ask everyone – government leaders, businesses, international organizations – to foster cooperation and not competition, and to seek a solution for everyone: vaccines for all, especially for the most vulnerable and needy of all regions of the planet. Before all others: the most vulnerable and needy!"

These words require responsible listening on the part of the entire Christian community, of believers, of all men and women of good will.

On December 29, the Dicastery for Integral Human Development and the Pontifical Academy for Life issued a special document on the importance of vaccination and the modalities that can make the vaccine a common good for everybody.

It was asked, among other things, to overcome the logic of "vaccine nationalism", understood as an attempt by the various states to have their own vaccine more quickly, in any case obtaining the necessary quantity for their inhabitants first. International agreements must be promoted and supported to manage patents in order to facilitate everyone's access to the product and avoid possible "commercial short circuits", also to keep the price controlled in the future as well. Industrial production of the vaccine should become a collaborative operation between states, pharmaceutical companies and other organizations so that it can be carried out simultaneously in different areas of the world.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for a new, more supportive future. That was possible - at least in part - for research. In the same spirit, a positive synergy must be initiated by enhancing the production and distribution facilities available in the various areas where the vaccines will be administered, on the basis of the subsidiarity principle. It is therefore to be avoided that some countries receive the vaccine very late because of shortages due to the prior purchase of large quantities by the richer states. Vaccine distribution requires a series of tools that need to be specified and implemented to achieve the agreed goals in terms of universal accessibility. A reminder to national governments and organizations of the European Union and the WHO to take action in this sense appears to be increasingly strong and urgent.

In this way the Pope's appeal can be made concrete: everyone, brothers and sisters!

- Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life
- Msgr Renzo Pegoraro, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy for Life

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