

Conclusions drawn from the 5 contributions regarding the charisms

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Rather than looking at the coronavirus, we focused upon the responses that each Movement came up with through its charism. One thing was clear: no one Movement has it all; nevertheless, the harmony that exists between the diverse charisms allows us to listen to parts of the score in Heaven. At the end of the day I synthesised these responses in 5 points:

1. The coronavirus triggered off a listening process in us. What is God saying to us through this pandemic? Among other things we perceive that God is sounding an alarm bell inviting us to put God at the centre of our life.
2. An impetus toward prayer. During our meeting we heard of many prayer initiatives as a response to the pandemic; this was especially visible with the initiatives “Germany prays together” and “Preparing together for Pentecost”.
3. The ‘Culture of alliance’ was promoted. The alliance among us, members of Tfe, was enhanced and many communities have experienced a more profound communion, and in some cases even a communion of goods on an international level (Focolare Movement). Some typical aspects of the nascent Church were manifested (domestic churches, small groups – Schoenstatt).
4. A culture of the encounter and peace (Peace Meeting by St. Egidio; Meetings by Efsia in France, etc.).
5. Many initiatives of solidarity, with a preferential option in favour of the poor (St. Egidio).