

## The Impact of Covid-19 in the Dynamics of Life at Pertapaan Santa Maria Rawaseneng

To share what Rawaseneng community experiences during this time of Covid-19, we made several group sharing and discussions. We believe similar matters are also experienced by our brothers and sisters within our Order around the world. But we hope that this Covid-19 can be a good start to unify our brotherhood deeper than ever before, together give thanks to the Lord for his Divine Providence for us all as one Order, also for humankind, while hoping for the better future for us and generations after us. Below are the excerpts of those discussions results :

- In the economic field
  - Indonesian President Joko Widodo declared Covid-19 emergency status on March 31, 2020, as a global pandemic disease. Since then, many regions have imposed large-scale social restrictions, this has had a major impact on the people's economy. The monastery could not escape this effect either.
  - The business sectors that supported the monastery economy such as the guesthouse, shop, coffee-plantation, bakery and pasteurized-milk began to decline along with the increasingly strict application of large-scale social restrictions in many regions and cities, so that the monastery could not send products to customers either in cities as well as in churches.
  - The monastery was increasingly creative in using existing technology. Marketing of monastery products is now done through online social media, that makes marketing can be broader.
  - Thus, when the local government implemented the “new normal situation” after the strict-restrictions, more orders came even than before Covid-19, due to the online marketing system.
  - There are still many people who sympathize with the monastery, and give help in their own ways.
- In the field of liturgy
  - Covid-19 in general has affected all aspects of life. Religion also could not get away from its influence. The Universal Church has undergone many adjustments regarding the standards set by WHO. Indonesian dioceses issued policies of Covid-19 health protocols according to government instructions.
  - The monastery also follows the policies adopted by the local church, in this case the archdiocese of Semarang. Therefore the monastery liturgical activities during the times of Covid-19 are closed to the public. Liturgical activities are only for the community, and some guests (priests) who have stayed long before Covid-19 happened.
  - Community liturgical activities proceed as usual and the community replaces the intercessory prayers on Sunday's vespers with prayers asking for protection from Covid-19.
  - The closing of the monastery's liturgical activities to the public increased the monastery's atmosphere of serenity and solitude.
- In community life
  - The community is increasingly to review the value of silence, solitide, stabilitas-loci, liturgy, manual-labour, fraternal life, and meaning of contemplative life.
  - The Covid-19 period is a good opportunity for the community to have a greater realization in living the values of monastic life, as stated above.
  - For matters that require members to leave the monastery, as much as possible permittance is given only for the very urgent ones and must follow the Covid-19 health protocol. The community is more and more aware that health is a shared responsibility.
  - All in all the community is reminded to always be grateful for the divine provision in daily life.