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## **SPECIAL ISSUE: COVID-19 IN AFRICA AND BEYOND**

### **EDITORS' FOREWORD**

We welcome you to the special issue of the JSD on COVID-19. It is a special issue on a number of grounds. First, the issue is addressing the most current and pernicious social and development challenge facing the world today. Secondly, the JSD has broadened its scientific reach by publishing articles from Africa, Europe and the United States of America thus making JSD truly international and transcontinental. Third, unlike in previous issues, JSD has prefixed the articles with an editorial from the Secretary General of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU). In this editorial, Prof. François Mabile advances a sobering critique of international security in the context of the global pandemic.

The fourth aspect of the speciality of this issue are the articles from contributors from Catholic higher learning institutions, particularly from the Association of Catholic Universities and Higher Institutes of Africa and Madagascar (ACUHIAM), which is a regional member of IFCU. João Abílio Lázaro and Anna Fontana delve into the possibility of reconciling poverty and higher education through COVID-19 from a Mozambican experience. Antony Tebitendwa and James Ssendege analyse the financial stability in the wake of COVID-19 against the backdrop of the church's mission in Uganda. Mari Rapela Heidt from the United States discusses integral ecology as a lens to mitigate the global pandemic.

Genevieve Mwayuli, George Mutalemwa and Leah Nyangasi attempt to unpack the mystery of COVID-19 and its effect on environmental sustainability. Then, Mutalemwa addresses the response to COVID-19 from a political, religious and cultural perspective in selected African countries. Blandine Chelini-Pont analyses a global spiritual lockdown and the role of digital communication. The Journal ends with the 77 verses by Mutalemwa, which are also available on YouTube and Facebook.

Lastly, we would like to thank, in a special way, one of the Advisory Board members for financially supporting the publication of this special issue.

Your editors,

George Mutalemwa and Antonio Allegretti