

## **DIAKONIA Prayer March 2021**

*For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of self-control.  
(2. Timothy 1:7)*

For a year now, uncertainty, fear and restrictions have had a name: CORONA Covid 19. The pandemic has caused a lot of suffering and hardship. At the same time, wars and inhuman injustices continue; it is difficult to keep hope alive for moving ahead and not to lose heart.

Regardless of this, the earth continues to rotate: the sun rises in the morning, sets in the evening and the church year also progresses. We have arrived in the lent season and fasting time and on the first Friday of this month we celebrate the World Day of Prayer as every year. Around the world, we will participate in the prayer of the women of Vanuatu. Women from different churches made the liturgy for the service on the theme "Build on a strong foundation"- they describe the challenges that young people in particular are confronted with. They find support in their religious communities and support in their faith. "To build on solid ground" means for them and also for us not only to listen to the words of Jesus, but also to act accordingly (Mt 7: 24-27).

Together with the women from Vanuatu, we ask ourselves: How do we survive crises? Where do we get hope from? A word from Paul occurs to me. From prison he writes to the despondent Timothy (2.Tim 1,2): "*For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of self-control*" and reminds him of the gifts he received from God for his vocation. Currently it is good to be reminded that God has given us skills and strength to overcome difficult times, to react with restraint and to give other people hope and strength through our actions. Let us pray together on the 26th:

### **Prayer:**

God of justice and mercy,  
you love human beings.  
We ask you for strength,  
to cope with the current situation.  
Let's look with open eyes, listen and act accordingly,  
when rules of life are disturbed,  
when human rights are violated,  
and human dignity is disregarded.  
We ask for self-control and wisdom  
in our decisions.  
We ask for a solid belief that you God,  
watch out for us and hold us and protect us. Amen

*Sr. Traude Leitenberger, Secretary*