**World Religions Honors Seminar**

**E-Learning Activity in Midst of Coronavirus**

#1) Some say that in difficult times, people turn to religion and faith more. Let's look at a few examples of this from the past weeks……

#2) A Christian Priest in Ireland named Richard Hendrick was inspired to write this poem recently as much of the world is in lockdown to prevent the further spread of the Coronavirus. Let's read his poem called

"Lockdown"…

*Yes there is fear.*

*Yes there is isolation.*

*Yes there is panic buying.*

*Yes there is sickness.*

*Yes there is even death.*

*But,*

*They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise*

*You can hear the birds again.*

*They say that after just a few weeks of quiet*

*The sky is no longer thick with fumes*

*But blue and grey and clear.*

*They say that in the streets of Assisi*

*People are singing to each other*

*across the empty squares,*

*keeping their windows open*

*so that those who are alone*

*may hear the sounds of family around them.*

*They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland*

*Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.*

*Today a young woman I know*

*is busy spreading fliers with her number*

*through the neighbourhood*

*So that the elders may have someone to call on.*

*Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples*

*are preparing to welcome*

*and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary*

*All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting*

*All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way*

*All over the world people are waking up to a new reality*

*To how big we really are.*

*To how little control we really have.*

*To what really matters.*

*To Love.*

*So we pray and we remember that*

*Yes there is fear.*

*But there does not have to be hate.*

*Yes there is isolation.*

*But there does not have to be loneliness.*

*Yes there is panic buying.*

*But there does not have to be meanness.*

*Yes there is sickness.*

*But there does not have to be disease of the soul*

*Yes there is even death.*

*But there can always be a rebirth of love.*

*Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.*

*Today, breathe.*

*Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic*

*The birds are singing again*

*The sky is clearing,*

*Spring is coming,*

*And we are always encompassed by Love.*

*Open the windows of your soul*

*And though you may not be able*

*to touch across the empty square,*

*Sing*

#3) This poem has become more and more popular in recent days. In fact, CNN's Anderson Cooper decided to end his show recently by reading it. Let's watch…..

Turn off your mic and Click on this link and watch by yourself: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=648FSpRmsYM>

After you watch it- turn back on your mic and let's discuss it together

#4) Finally, let's end class with one more video from the very Christian country of Italy that is suffering greatly under this Coronavirus. As you will see in this video, Italians are still finding ways to feel a sense of community together each day.

Turn off your mic and Click on this link and watch by yourself: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBByYjjvNzs>

After you watch it- turn back on your mic and let's discuss it together