ENCYCLICAL LETTER

FRATELLI TUTTI

Of the Holy Father Francis

On fraternity and social friendship

WHAT IS IT?

The third encyclical of Pope Francis, after ***Lumen fidei*** (2013) and ***Laudato sí´*** (2015).

It was signed on October 3, 2020, in Assisi, Italy.

ON WHAT IS IT BASED?

- Questions about fraternity and social friendship that have concerned the Pope in recent years.
- Themes put forward in the *Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, which the Pope signed jointly with the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb* in February 2019.

TO WHOM IS IT ADDRESSED?

To all persons who will accept this reflection an invitation to dialogue.

HOW IS THE ENCYCLICAL ORGANIZED?

- ***Fratelli tutti*** consists of a general introduction and 8 chapters.

Introduction
Chapter I: DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD
Chapter II: A STRANGER ON THE ROAD
Chapter III: ENVISAGING AND ENGENDERING AN OPEN WORLD
Chapter IV: A HEART OPEN TO THE WHOLE WORLD
Chapter V: A BETTER KIND OF POLITICS
Chapter VI: DIALOGUE AND FRIENDSHIP IN SOCIETY
Chapter VII: PATHS OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER

WHAT DOES IT PROPOSE?

- It is a social encyclical dedicated to fraternity and social friendship.
- It treats the universal dimension of the doctrine of fraternal love.
- Its aim is to put forth a new vision of fraternity and social friendship.]
- It encourages us to dream as a single human family and as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh.

WHERE DOES THE TITLE COME FROM?

- ***Fratelli tutti*** is an expression of Saint Francis of Assisi (Admonitions, 6, 1).
- The saint used the expression to propose a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel.
- Saint Francis invites all men and women to a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN PRAYER

"Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover a new that all are
important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves."
Amén

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01

DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD

Pope Francis observes trends in our world that hinder the development of universal fraternity.

"Globalized society makes us neighbors, but it does not make us brothers and sisters."

IN WHAT WAYS DO WE OBSERVE THE DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD?

- The despair and discouragement that are widespread in society
- The polarization that impedes dialogue and living together
- The persons who are considered easily "sacrificed" and discarded.
- The inequality of rights and the new forms of slavery.
- The moral deterioration and the weakening of spiritual values

TODAY WE WITNESS THE MANIPULATION OF GREAT WORDS, SUCH AS:

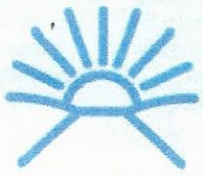
LIBERTY JUSTICE DEMOCRACY UNITY

IN THE FACE OF THESE CHALLENGES, *FRATELLI TUTTI* INSISTS THAT

"The road we must travel is that of closeness; it is the culture of encounter"

God continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness.

Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, has to be realized each and every day.



Hope looks beyond any personal convenience that limits our horizon, and it opens us up to grand ideals.

A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

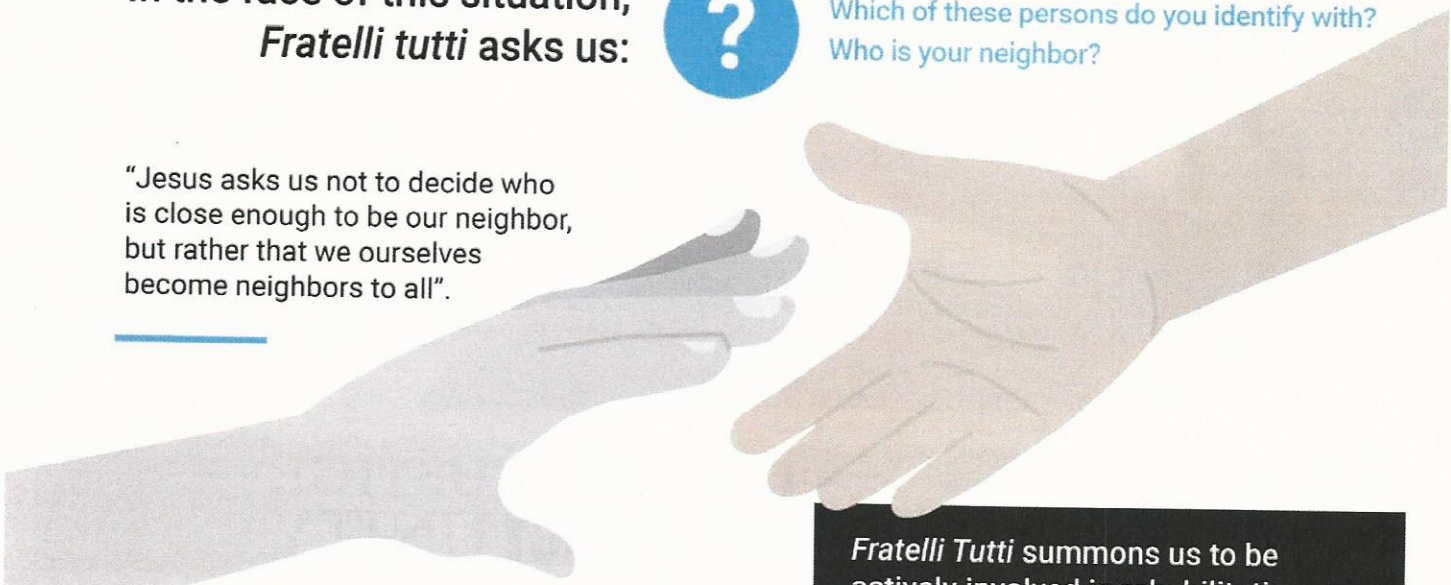
WHO ARE THE OTHER CHARACTERS IN THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN?

- THE ASSAILANTS
- THOSE WHO PASS BY ON THE OTHER SIDE
- THE WOUNDED AND ABANDONED VICTIM

In the face of this situation, *Fratelli tutti* asks us:

Which of these persons do you identify with? Who is your neighbor?

"Jesus asks us not to decide who is close enough to be our neighbor, but rather that we ourselves become neighbors to all".

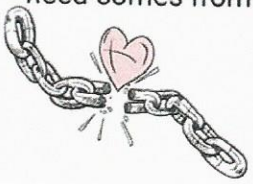


TODAY THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN IS BEING REPEATED:

1. Appeals are made to determinism or fatalism to justify our own indifference.
2. Society tends to ignore others, especially the weak.
3. The world allows and encourages social exclusion.
4. We are witnessing social and political apathy.

Fratelli Tutti summons us to be actively involved in rehabilitating our wounded societies.

Love does not care if a brother or sister in need comes from one place or another:



FOR LOVE SHATTERS THE CHAINS THAT KEEP US ISOLATED AND SEPARATE; IN THEIR PLACE, IT BUILDS BRIDGES.

WILL YOU PASS BY ON THE OTHER SIDE, OR WILL YOU STOP TO HELP THOSE WOUNDED ON THE ROADSIDE?

In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan.

ENVISAGING AND ENGENDERING AN OPEN WORLD

Jesus told us: *"You are all brothers and sisters"* *(Mt 23:8)*

The call to universal fraternity requires openness:

- Human beings find their fulfilment in the sincere gift of self to others.
- Love calls for a greater ability to accept others and to reach out to the margins.
- A love capable of transcending borders is the basis of "social friendship."

PROMOTING THE GOOD MEANS PROMOTING VALUES THAT ADVANCE INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

How can that be achieved?

- ✓ By thinking and acting in terms of community.
- ✓ By combatting the structural causes of poverty and inequality.
- ✓ By requiring the state to be present and active and to invest in assistance to the vulnerable.
- ✓ By insuring that no one is excluded.
- ✓ By establishing a real and lasting peace based on a global ethic of solidarity and service.

[***Every person is valuable and has the right to live with dignity.***]

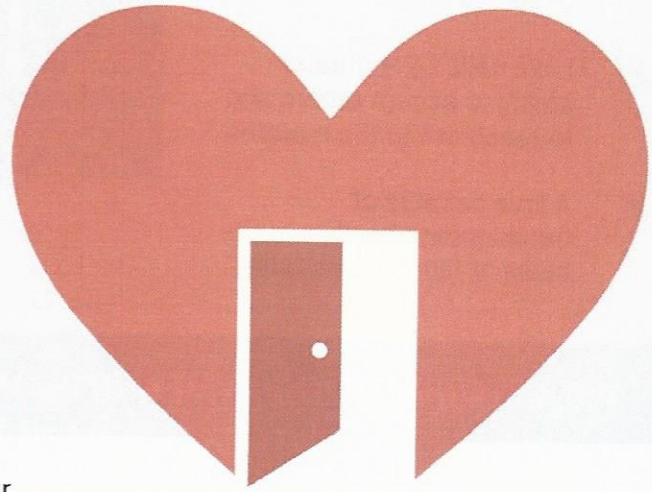
A HEART OPEN TO THE WHOLE WORLD

WHAT ACTIONS WORK IN FAVOR OF UNIVERSAL FRATERNITY?

1. Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and all those on the margins.
2. Becoming more aware that nowadays either we are all saved together or no one is saved.
3. Forging a global juridical, political, and economic order that favors the development of all peoples in solidarity.

What is gratuitousness?

- Doing some things simply because they are good in themselves.
- Acting without concern for personal gain or recompense.
- Welcoming strangers, even though this brings us no immediate tangible benefit.



"The true worth of the different countries of our world is measured by their ability to think as part of the larger human family. God always gives freely."

Every healthy culture is open and welcoming by its very nature:

Opening our minds and hearts helps us to understand those who are different.

In the universal communion each human group discovers its own beauty.

Human beings are limited beings who are nevertheless limitless.

Is it possible for us to be open to our neighbors within a family of nations?

A BETTER KIND OF POLITICS

"Charity, according to the teaching of Jesus, is the synthesis of the entire Law" **(cf. Mt 22,36-40)**

What is a better kind of politics?

- One that truly promotes the common good.
- One that does not seek merely to gain votes.
- One that serves as a channel for personal growth.
- One that promotes an economy that favors productive diversity and business creativity.
- One that is far-sighted and capable of a new, integral, and interdisciplinary dialogue.

FRATELLI TUTTI **CALLS FOR A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ORDER WHOSE SOUL IS SOCIAL CHARITY:**

- ✓ Making it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us feel called.
- ✓ Recognizing all human beings as brothers and sisters, with no one excluded.
- ✓ Charity needs the light of truth, the light of reason, and the light of faith.

Social charity makes us love the common good; it makes us effectively seek the good of all people, in the social dimension that unites them.

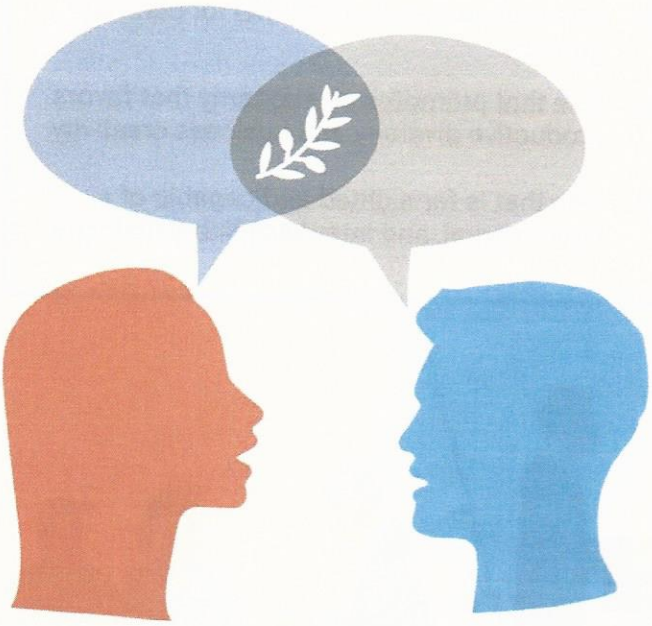
In political activity, every person is sacred and deserves our affection and our respect:

"If I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life".

DIALOGUE AND FRIENDSHIP IN SOCIETY

What does it mean to "dialogue"?

- **APPROACHING**
- **SPEAKING**
- **LISTENING**
- **LOOKING AT**
- **COMING TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER**
- **FINDING COMMON GROUND**



ACCORDING TO THE CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER:

Each of us can learn something from others, no one is useless, and no one is expendable.

A PLURALIST SOCIETY THAT ENCOURAGES DIALOGUE:

1. Respects the dignity of others in all circumstances.
2. Integrates differences, thus guaranteeing a genuine and lasting peace.
3. Recognizes other people's right to be themselves, maintaining an atmosphere of friendliness.

What attitudes or actions do not help toward dialogue?

- Any aggression we may manifest, for example, on social networks.
- Monologues that do not listen to others.
- The quick and humiliating discrediting of others.

"Authentic social dialogue involves the ability to respect the point of view of others."

PATHS OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER

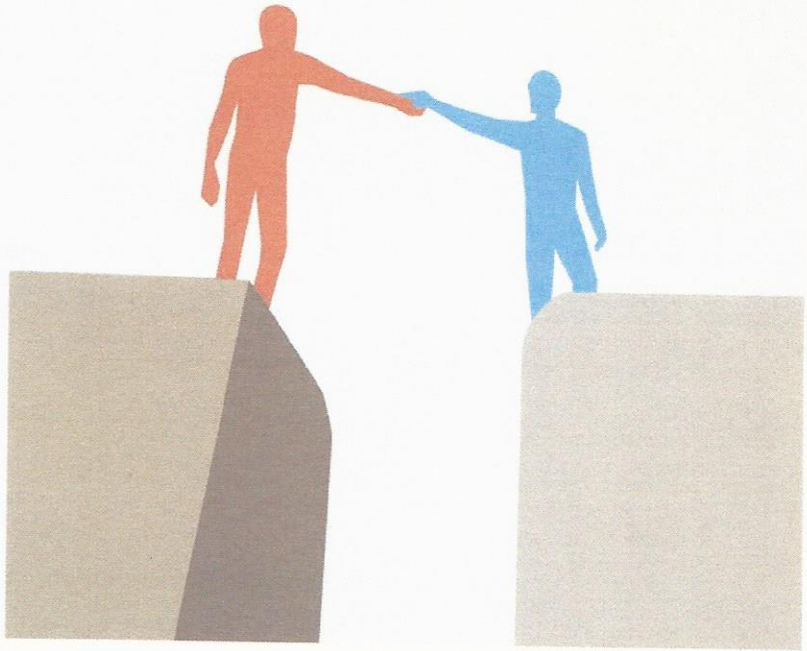
ON THE PATH TOWARD PEACE, THE PROCESSES OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER ARE VERY NECESSARY:

- In true reconciliation.
- In common projects that do not deny each person's individuality.
- In recognizing, protecting, and restoring the dignity of all persons.
- In the option for the poor, the dispossessed, and the discarded.
- In understanding and appreciating the meaning of forgiveness.

Jesus never promoted violence or intolerance.
The Gospel tells us to forgive *"seventy times seven times"* (Mt 18,22)

TRUE FORGIVENESS AND TRUE RECONCILIATION:

- Are achieved in conflict and are resolved through dialogue.
- Abstain from enmities and mutual hatred.
- Facilitate an honest discussion of differences, founded on a desire for justice.
- Do not mean forgetting or impunity.
- Do not fall into the vicious circle of vengeance.



"I ask God to prepare our hearts to encounter our brothers and sisters, so that we may overcome our differences rooted in political thinking, language, culture and religion."

POPE FRANCIS

RELIGIONS AT THE SERVICE OF FRATERNITY IN OUR WORLD

ONLY WITH THE AWARENESS THAT WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD CAN WE LIVE IN PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER:

The different religions contribute significantly to building fraternity.

Seeking God helps us recognize one another as travelling companions, truly brothers and sisters.

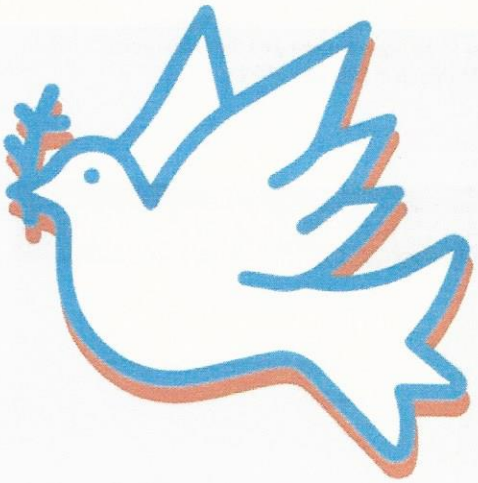
The denial of religious freedom and freedom of conscience leaves humanity impoverished.

THE CHURCH IS A HOME WITH OPEN DOORS, BECAUSE SHE IS A MOTHER:

1. She builds bridges
2. She breaks down walls
3. She sows seeds of reconciliation

A JOURNEY OF PEACE IS POSSIBLE AMONG RELIGIONS:

- The point of departure must be God's way of seeing things, for God sees with his heart.
- Violence has no basis in our fundamental religious convictions.
- Sincere and humble worship of God bears fruit in respect for life, dignity, and freedom.



Religious leaders are called to be true "people of dialogue": to cooperate in building peace as authentic mediators.

AN ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN PRAYER

O God, Trinity of love,
from the profound communion of your divine life,
pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.
Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,
in his family of Nazareth,
and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,
discovering Christ in each human being,
recognizing him crucified
in the sufferings of the abandoned
and forgotten of our world,
and risen in each brother or sister
who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.
Amen.