

Fratelli Tutti (2020)



Pope Francis' encyclical letter on Fraternity and Social Friendship.

The call for a love that transcends barriers of geography and distance and declares blessed all those who love their brother and sister near or far.

The encyclical ***calls for a better politics and a heart opened to the world*** as we navigate a new global reality forged by *globalization* (a shared road map), the Covid-19 pandemic and 'an absence of human dignity at the border.'

This new approach will be guided by the ***principles of dialogue, friendship and paths of renewed encounter*** as we embrace the call of our religions at the service of our *interrelatedness as brothers and sisters in our world*. Such an approach can be guided by the ***value and meaning of forgiveness*** rejecting human responses like war and the death penalty. The overall theme of the encyclical is one of enormous hope...

'I invite everyone to renewed hope, for hope 'speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning....Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizons, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile.' (para 55)

Daniel Horan, *ofm*, describes three key Franciscan themes from the pope's encyclical. (NCR, Oct 4, 2020).

(i) the concept of ***fraternitas*** or '*interrelatedness as brothers and sisters.*'

(ii) ***crossing borders, building bridges.***

(iii) ***peacemaking and reconciliation*** - 'If we recognise that we are all sisters and brothers to one another, then we have an inherent bond with each other that demands something of us – our love, respect and care.'



As the enduring example of unconditional mercy, love and forgiveness Pope Francis draws on the parable of the good Samaritan. (Luke 10:25-37) The good Samaritan is someone who models the desire to build relationships that go beyond the limits and excuses we use to protect ourselves from forming a meaningful connection with others.