

FRATELLI TUTTI

On Fraternity and Social Friendship



What St. Francis and Pope Francis
are Saying to Us

With *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel)
Pope Francis focuses on repairing the Church.

With *Laudato Si'* (Praised Be)
he focuses on care for the planet.

With *Fratelli Tutti* (Brothers and Sisters All) he focuses on
care for each other.

“In his simple and direct way, Saint Francis expressed the essence of a **fraternal openness** that allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of where he or she was born or lives (1).”

“...Francis felt himself a brother to the sun, the sea and the wind, yet he knew that he was even closer to those of his own flesh. Wherever he went, he sowed the seeds of peace and walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the infirm and the outcast, the least of his brothers and sisters (2).”



“Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all (8).”

- Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti

Fratelli Tutti is organized with an Introduction and 8 chapters:

Chapter 1: Dark Clouds Over a Closed World

Chapter 2: A Stranger on the Road

Chapter 3: Envisaging and Engendering an Open World

Chapter 4: A Heart Open to the Whole World

Chapter 5: A Better Kind of Politics

Chapter 6: Dialogue and friendship in Society

Chapter 7: Paths of Renewed Encounter

Chapter 8: Religions at the Service of Fraternity in Our World

The encyclical also includes a Prayer to the Creator and An Ecumenical Christian Prayer

Introduction

“It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women (8).”

- *By calling for a love that “transcends the barriers of geography and distance” and by crossing Crusade lines to meet the Sultan of Egypt, St. Francis demonstrated his openness of heart and commitment to peace at a time of great power struggles and violence – not unlike today.*
- *Pope Francis calls us to value fraternity and friendship across all boundaries and division, as he demonstrated when he and the Grand Imam Ahmad Al Tayyeb signed the “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” in Abu Dhabi in 2019.*
- *The encyclical aims to promote a universal aspiration toward fraternity and social friendship not only in words, but in deeds.*

Chapter 1: Dark Clouds over a Closed World

“A worldwide tragedy like the COVID-19 pandemic momentarily revived the sense that we are a global community...when one person’s problems are the problems of all (32).”

- Pope Francis says there is a culture of indifference that especially affects the unborn, disabled and elderly.
- Though connected globally, we do not see our brothers and sisters as our neighbors.
- This is most apparent in the absence of dignity for migrants at our borders and for those impacted by the pandemic.
- Pope Francis wants to strengthen the idea of social friendship and social peace in the face of social violence, which he sees running through the economy, politics and social media.

Chapter 2: A Stranger on the Road

“Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders (69).”

- Jesus tells the parable in response to the question from a lawyer, “And who is my neighbor?” The neighbor is the one who shows mercy to the injured man – the Good Samaritan.
- The parable is not solely a lesson about charity, but also a transformative encounter of mercy.
- The Pope provides a detailed description of each character in the story so the reader can ask “Who am I, who are we, in this story?”
- Pope Francis exhorts us to recognize Christ in the face of every (excluded) person.

Chapter 3: Envisaging and Engendering an Open World

“All of us, as believers, need to recognize that love takes first place: love must never be put at risk, and the greatest danger lies in failing to love (92).”

- *This love must grow beyond family and nation to include strangers and all people into a friendship where the worth of every person is acknowledged.*
- *Fraternity grows into a universal love that promotes others when human connections are consciously cultivated through education in dialogue in order to defeat the “virus” of “radical individualism.”*

Chapter 4: A Heart Open to the Whole World

“The true worth of the different countries of our world is measured by their ability to think not simply as a country but also as part of the larger human family)141).”

- *Pope Francis explores the moral and social implications of having a “heart open to the whole world.”*
- *He says nations should have a fundamental openness to welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating their “neighbor,” the migrant or refugee. Immigrants should be regarded as a gift.*
- *“Universal fraternity and social friendship are two inseparable and equally vital poles in every society.”*

Chapter 5: A Better Kind of Politics

“The marketplace, by itself, cannot resolve every problem, however much we are asked to believe this dogma...we must put human dignity back at the center...(168).”

- *A better kind of politics is “truly at the service of the common good” and truly open to people, making it one of the most valuable forms of charity (154).*
- *A better kind of politics also protects work, tackles poverty, and aims to find solutions to social problems which deny fundamental human rights, including hunger, human trafficking and other social exclusions.*
- *He closes by repeating lines from Laudato Si’ :“politics must not be subject to the economy.”*
- *Politics can be a noble act when centered on the human dignity of all brothers and sisters.*

Chapter 6: Dialogue and Friendship in Society

“...(Once) kindness becomes a culture within society it transforms lifestyles, relationships and the ways ideas are discussed and compared. Kindness facilitates the quest for consensus; it opens new paths where hostility and conflict would burn all bridges (224).”

- *Pope Francis calls for the careful cultivation of a “culture of encounter” which can help us transcend our divisions and differences as we work together to pursue the common good.*
- *This kindness is not just about civility; it is about genuine concern for others.*

Chapter 7: Paths of Renewed Encounter

“Those who work for tranquil social coexistence should never forget that inequality and lack of integral human development make peace impossible (235).”

- *Pope Francis calls for peacemakers to forge new paths of healing and “renewed encounter” in our fractured world.*
- *Pope Francis describes the importance of reconciliation and its relationship to forgiveness, explaining that while forgiveness is central to Christianity, it does not mean forgetting harm done and it cannot be required of victims.*
- *The use of the death penalty makes no sense in a world where it is possible to keep society safe without it.*
- *We can no longer think of war as a solution because its risks will always be greater than its benefits, especially with the use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.*

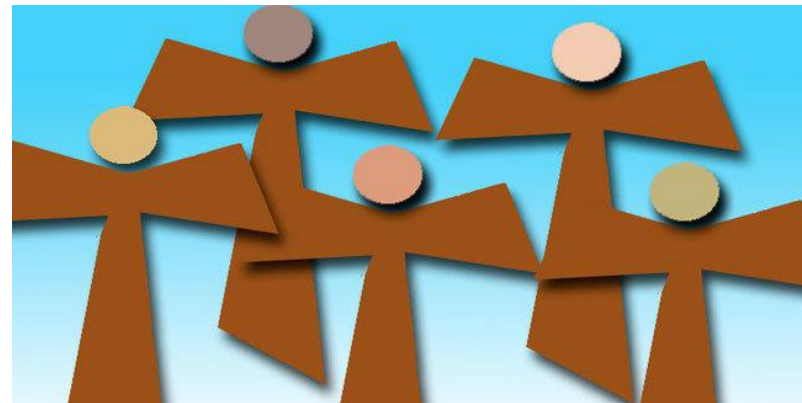
Chapter 8: Religions at the Service of Fraternity in Our World

“As believers, we are convinced that, without an openness to the Father of all, there will be no solid and stable reasons for an appeal to fraternity (272).”

- ***The Church does not “remain on the sidelines” in the building of a better world but seeks to “reawaken the spiritual energy” that can contribute to the betterment of society.***
- ***In the name of human fraternity, dialogue must be adopted as the way, common cooperation as conduct, and mutual knowledge as method and standard (285)***

Fraternity

- *Is the means by which, and the environment through which we are called to live the Gospel*
- *Fraternity is the key model for OFS Gospel Life*
- *The vocation of the OFS is a vocation to live the Gospel in fraternal communion.*



Life in Fraternity



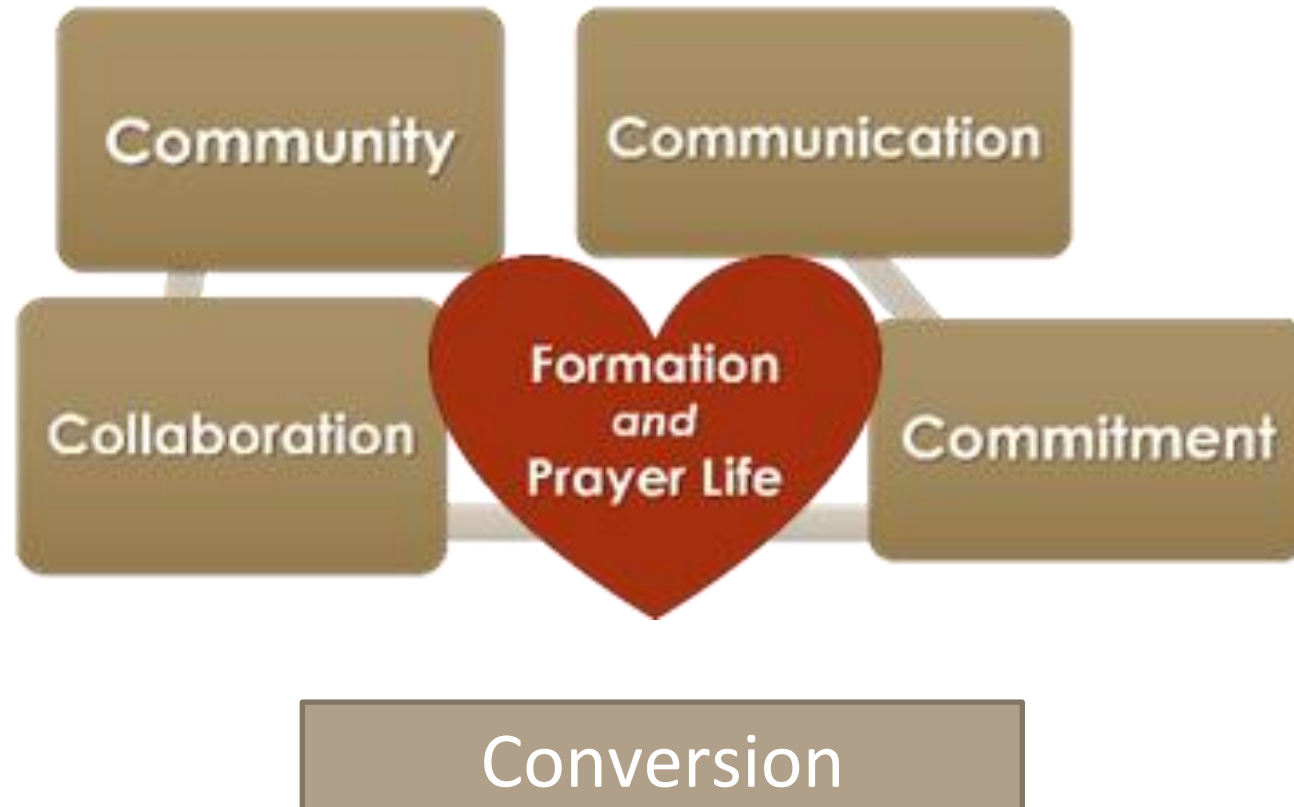
- *Secular Franciscans should consider their own family to be the first place in which to live their Christian commitment and Franciscan Vocation (OFS Rule 17)*
- *In the fraternity, they should share the important moments of the family life of their Franciscan brothers and sisters, and they should give their fraternal attention to those - single, widows, single parents, separated, divorced - who are living difficult situations (OFS Rule 17)*

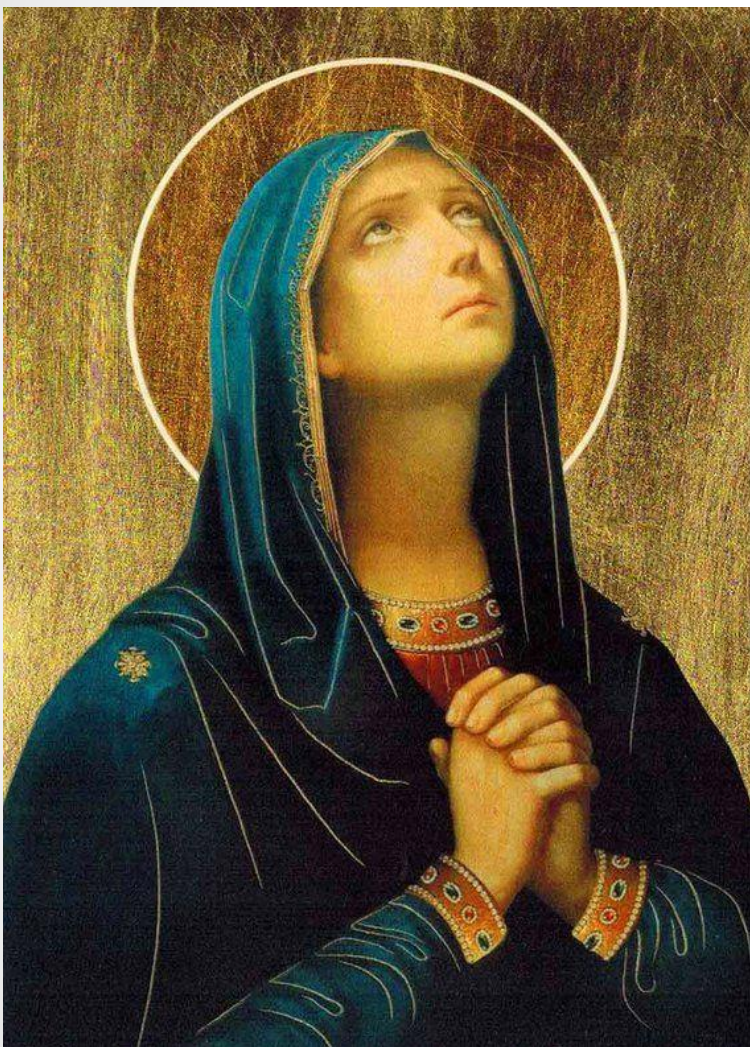


Our Challenge? Live the Gospel! Build Community!

- *Francis showed the world how to live the Gospel*
- *We are called to live the Gospel in the spirit of Francis and Clare in our fraternity and our world*
- *But, how can we do this????*

Franciscan Fraternity - Special Ingredients





Build Community

- *Mary is the model of fruitful and faithful love for the entire ecclesial community*
- *Secular Franciscans and their fraternities should seek to live the experience of Francis, who made the Virgin the guide of his activity*
- *With her, like the disciples at Pentecost, they should welcome the Spirit to create a community of love. (GC 16)*

Foster Communication



- *Create conditions suitable for dialog (OFS Rule 19)*
- *Deepen the true foundations of universal kinship and create a spirit of welcome and an atmosphere of fraternity everywhere (GC 18)*
- *Practice purity of heart, the source of true fraternity (GC 16)*

Collaborate, Collaborate, Collaborate!

- *Collaborate, individually and as a fraternity, with initiatives of the Pope, the local Churches, and the Franciscan Family (GC 23)*
- *Collaborate with those movements and institutions which promote peace while respecting its authentic foundations. (GC 23)*
- *Welcome the Spirit to create a community of love. (GC 16)*



Foster Commitment

- *The council should organize regular and frequent meetings of the community as well as meeting with other Franciscan groups (OFS Rule 24)*
- *Adopt appropriate means for growth in Franciscan and ecclesial life and encourage everyone to a life of fraternity. The communion continues with deceased brothers and sisters through prayer for them (OFS Rule 24)*



Questions for Dialog

- *What is your understanding of Fraternity?*
- *What challenges have you faced in building fraternity?*
- *How can you better build community and live the Gospel?*

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.*

