

PILGRIMS OF HOPE -ON THE PATH OF PEACE* Advent 2024

Reflection by the Commission "Economy at the Service of Charisma and Mission"

Consecrated Life on the road to the Jubilee: In Solidarity with all Brothers and Sisters:

Solidarity is the recognition that we are all interconnected and that our lives, challenges, and triumphs are bound together in a shared human experience. In *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis emphasizes the profound need for global solidarity, urging us to break down barriers that divide us. We are called to recognize all people as our brothers and sisters, regardless of nationality, race, or creed. Through this encyclical, we are reminded of our duty to love our neighbours and to work for the common good. The following are some of the points: -

The Call to Universal Brotherhood: - Pope Francis, through *Fratelli Tutti*, challenges us to rethink how we interact with the world. The document calls for unity and fraternity, encouraging us to move beyond individualism and isolation. We are reminded of Jesus' words in the Gospel of Luke 10, "Love your neighbour as yourself." (The parable of the good Samaritan) This call is not just for those close to us but for every person, reflecting the universality of God's love.



Caring for the Most Vulnerable: - Solidarity means actively caring for the marginalized, the poor, and those who suffer. Pope Francis points out that our world is plagued by inequalities, and as followers of Christ, we must address these injustices. Galatians 6:2 reminds us to "bear one another's burdens," and this biblical principle should guide our actions in society. We are all responsible for ensuring that no one is left behind.

Promoting Dialogue and Encounter: - By fostering an attitude of encounter and listening we can bridge divides and build a culture of mutual understanding. James 1:19 advises, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." This spirit of dialogue and listening is essential in fostering unity and resolving conflicts.

The Role of Forgiveness in Solidarity: - Forgiveness is central to healing wounds in our communities and the world. Ephesians 4:32 instructs us to "be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven you." By practicing forgiveness, we emulate Christ's love and create space for renewed relationships and trust.

Building a Culture of Peace: - Lastly, *Fratelli Tutti* emphasizes the need for peace-making in a world torn by conflict. The true peace is born from dialogue, mutual respect, and the pursuit of justice. Jesus said in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." This divine call urges us to actively engage in building bridges of understanding and to work for reconciliation in our divided world.

Solidarity is "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all".

Question for reflection:

"Where is your brother? Where is your sister?" (Gen.4:9)

This question is to be echoed in our everyday life.

Conclusion: -We commit to living out the gospel by fostering solidarity, showing compassion to the vulnerable, and becoming peacemakers. As we live this out, we honour God and build a more just, loving, and unified world. These principles encourage us to practice solidarity in ways that transcend borders and divisions, emphasizing our shared responsibility for the well-being of all people.

Let us journey in hope as consecrated persons in Solidarity with all brothers and sisters and build up a loving and unified world.

RESOURCES

1. 'Fratelli Tutti'- Encyclical by Pope Francis On October 3, 2020
2. On Social Concern (*Sollicitudorei Socialis*,) Encyclical by St John Paul 11 on December 30, 1987