

Dear Foundations,

Date: Autumn Term 2023

For those of you who are familiar with the Diocesan Study day held in Bromley each year, we have introduced a change this year. Bromley Foundation has sadly closed and we are still looking for another suitable venue that is central for all diocesan foundations.

In order to cascade the contents of the National Study Conference held this year in Crewe, we are emailing a study session package for each Foundation to use. We suggest a couple of members lead the session, aided by the active participation of the members.

It covers chapters 1 and 2 of Pope Francis's encyclical, Fratelli Tutti. You may wish to use one or other of the chapters, or both. Please see the contents page for more details.

One is probably enough for a Foundation meeting.

We hope you find the package user friendly and we would appreciate feedback on the simple feedback form.

Thank you and best wishes,

The aim of this package is to help members understand some of the key messages of Fratelli Tutti.

- Why Pope Francis wrote it? In his introduction he writes:

6. The following pages do not claim to offer a complete teaching on fraternal love, but rather to consider its universal scope, its openness to every man and woman. I offer this social Encyclical as a modest contribution to continued reflection, in the hope that in the face of present-day attempts to eliminate or ignore others, we may prove capable of responding with a new vision of fraternity and social friendship that will not remain at the level of words. Although I have written it from the Christian convictions that inspire and sustain me, I have sought to make this reflection an invitation to dialogue among all people of good will.

- The parable of the Good Samaritan is a key element in the encyclical, it asks how do we communicate our fraternal love by how we live, how do we show our love by what we do?
- And understanding that God is always there, especially when our plans go astray.

The package consists of:

Chapter 1, identifies the main issues that presently divide countries and society .
The exercise sheet allows members to share their thoughts on these issues.

Chapter 2 , an introduction to the parable of the Good Samaritan.

A copy of the Parable – each group/member should have a copy to read.

The Pope has focussed on this parable as the way of Human Fraternity and Social Friendship.

The exercise sheet for discussion.

Two prayers of Hope to bring the session to a conclusion.

A simple and quick feedback form

Introduction

Fratelli Tutti is the title Pope Francis chose for his 3rd Encyclical.

The words meaning, brothers and sisters all, are taken from St Francis of Assisi, whose love for all God's creatures was a source of inspiration for this encyclical.

It is dedicated to a new vision of Human Fraternity and Social Friendship, and is a call to all people willing to accept the invitation to live the way of the Gospel, emphasising love and care for each other.

Fratelli Tutti was released on 4th October 2020, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, and in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic, the global health emergency that helped to demonstrate that "no one can face life in isolation" and as a human family, we are all brothers and sisters together

Chapter One

Fratelli Tutti is wide ranging, and touches on many areas and trends in our world in which our present day society struggles.

Some example given are;

- A throwaway world, where some e.g. the disabled, unborn, elderly are not valued.
- Decline in the birth rate, the isolation of the aged.
- Inequalities in Human Rights for all
- Affronts to human dignity, from war, terrorism racism and religious persecution
- Injustices in the distribution of resources
- Poverty

All of these present barriers to the development of universal fraternity.

Despite this, the chapter ends with hope, for "hope speaks to us " of the human desire for a life of fulfilment and that together we can achieve greater things.

Exercise

Suggestion : Think about one thing in your life that limits your social friendship / encounters with others.

How would you change that?

Introduction

Fratelli Tutti is Pope Francis' third encyclical, published in 2020 at the height of the Covid pandemic.

An "encyclical" is a letter that is a teaching document by the Holy Father.

This encyclical is a key part of Catholic Social Teaching. It applies the consistent, traditional moral teachings of the Church to the social and economic challenges of the current day.

Pope Francis invites the Church to live out the call to universal fraternity and social friendship. Fratelli Tutti offers "a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel" and shares a vision for humanity that Pope Francis has emphasized throughout his papacy.

Chapter 2

A Stranger on the Road

This chapter is devoted to the parable told by Jesus about the Good Samaritan.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is the main scriptural reference and exemplifies the ideas of unselfish brotherly love and care for a stranger.

It is a familiar story, and one to which we can all relate, and find contemporary examples. It challenges us to examine our own feelings and behaviour, in similar circumstances.

Study: *Parable of the Good Samaritan.*

Read the extract from St Luke's Gospel – give out a copy to each group/person.

Exercise:

Put yourself into the position of:

- The wounded man
- The Levite and the priest
- The Samaritan

What are your thoughts about what has happened to you/ or what you did?

Can you think of modern-day examples of each person?

Listen carefully. Use “I” statements. (Take responsibility for what you express. Do not speak for “them.”)

- Help all to participate. (Do not dominate the conversation.)
- Stay on the topic and stay focused on Pope Francis’ message.
- Be respectful and charitable at all times

The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10 25-37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’^[c]; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my ?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

The next day he took out two denarii^[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

6
Prayers of Hope

Hope Amidst Dark Clouds

May your light break through dark clouds, O Lord!

May your hope grow in our hearts --even when the skies feel ominous.

Fear, isolation, individualism, conflict: these are the winds that blow gusts of racism and inequality in our "throw-away world."

But we are saved together; not alone.

So teach us, Lord, to hope. Show us the goodness you continue to sow. Show us the boldness of love to reject fear and embrace our neighbour.

Make fertile the ground where seeds fall. Bring gentle rain and warm rays of sunlight.

May we know your love shines bright. Through dark clouds, may your hope shine again.

A Prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace.

Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth.

May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. Amen

Feedback Form

Name of Foundation:

Date:

We would appreciate your feedback to help us go forward with cascading the information and messages from the National Study Conference. It is a task that requires time and effort and we would like it to be worthwhile for all our members. Comments are very helpful.

Thank you

Did you use the package yes/no

Did you find it easy to use yes/no

Was it worthwhile yes/no

Any other comment:

Thank you for your feedback.