

Fratelli Tutti

On Fraternity and Social Friendship



Archdiocese of Washington

**Reflection Guide for
Small Group, Family
or Individuals**



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Washington

“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.”

*Fratelli Tutti, 2020,
Introduction*



Reflection Process for small group, family, or individual:

- ✓ Before each meeting, read the chapter of *Fratelli Tutti* that will be discussed that week.
- ✓ Pray the Prayer to the Creator offered by our Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti*.
- ✓ Proclaim the Scripture verse for each week's study guide.
- ✓ Share aloud a word or a phrase from the Scripture that speaks to the heart of each group member. How is the Scripture calling them to respond?
- ✓ Reflect and answer questions raised in the chapter.
- ✓ Plan and implement concrete response by the group, family or individual action, keeping in mind Pope Francis' call to listen, dialogue, act.

Prayer to the Creator in Fratelli Tutti

*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.*

Listen, Dialogue, and Act: Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* asks us to Listen, Dialogue, and Act (Action). Our actions can be divided into two types: social justice (advocacy) and charitable works (charity). The USCCB explains the difference between social justice and charitable works in the Two Feet of Love in Action campaign. Learn more below about the need for all Catholics to act through works of social justice (advocacy) and charity.

“Catholic disciples on mission are called to put Two Feet of Love in Action! This foundational tool describes two distinct, but complementary, ways we can put the Gospel in action in response to God's love: social justice (addressing systemic, root causes of problems that affect many people) and charitable works (short-term, emergency assistance for individuals).





Social Justice: Concerns the social, political, and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions” (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 201). We step with this foot when we work to address the root causes of problems facing our communities by advocating for just public policies and helping to change the social structures that contribute to suffering and injustice at home and around the world.

Charitable Works: Charitable Works are our ‘response to immediate needs and specific situations: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for and healing the sick, visiting those in prison, etc.’ (Deus Caritas Est, no. 31). We step with the Charitable Works foot when we work to aid or assist others both locally and globally to meet their immediate, short-term needs. Examples include engaging in direct service or providing food, clothing, shelter, or monetary assistance to help those in need.” From: [USCCB’s Two Feet of Love in Action](#)

Frequently Used Terms in Fratelli Tutti:

Charity (Love): The Theological Virtue by which we give love to God for his own sake and love to our neighbor on account of God (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, Glossary).

Concupiscence: The disorder in our human appetites and desires as the result of Original Sin. These effects remain even after Baptism and produce an inclination to sin (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, Glossary). “...the human inclination to be concerned only with myself, my group, my own petty interests. Concupiscence is not a flaw limited to our own day” (FT §166).

Cultural Colonization: The practice of denying history, and past experiences at the expense of religion, law, and culture by attempting to create a new uniform society (See [Homily by Pope Francis](#) for more information).



Fraternity: is a direct demand of human and Christian brotherhood for charity in the service of others. Fraternity is also articulated in terms of “friendship,” “social charity” and/or solidarity. (See CCC 1939). “Believers are called to express this human fraternity by safeguarding creation and the entire universe and supporting all persons, especially the poorest and those most in need” (A Document on Human Fraternity and Living Together).

Integral Ecology: The term Pope Francis uses in *Laudato Si'* to call for a common understanding that all is connected and we are to work for the good of all.

Solidarity: “The principle of solidarity, also articulated in terms of ‘friendship’ or ‘social charity,’ is a direct demand of human and Christian brotherhood”(CCC 1939). This principle involves a love for all peoples that transcends national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. It respects the needs of others and the common good in an interdependent world (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, Glossary).

Subsidiarity: “A community of a higher order should not interfere in the internal life of a community of a lower order, depriving the latter of its functions, but rather should support it in case of need and help it to coordinate its activity with the activities of the rest of society, always with a view to the common good.” (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, Glossary).

Key Documents to Consider:

[Fratelli Tutti](#) (2020)

USCCB: [An Overview of the Encyclical](#) (2020)

[Gaudium et Spes: The Church in the Modern World](#) (1973)

[Evangelii Nuntiandi: Evangelization in the Modern World](#) (1975)

[Message to the Handicapped, Angelus in Osnabruck, Germany](#) (1980)

[Sollicitudo Rei Socialis” On Social Concern](#) (1987)

[Evangelium Vitae: The Gospel of Life](#) (1995)

[Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope](#) (2003)

[Deus Caritas Est: Of Christian Love](#) (2005)

[Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel](#) (2013)

[Address to Participants in the World Meeting of Popular Movements](#) (2014)

[Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home](#) (2015)

[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#) (2016)

[A Document On Human Fraternity For World Peace And Living Together](#) (2019)

[Message for the World Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) (2019)

