

Fratelli Tutti!

All Sisters and Brothers

When you receive this letter we will be in our fifth week of study of Fratelli Tutti, an encyclical written by our Holy Father Francis and published in 2020. Judith Mussatto, our Regional Minister, and Lucy Ibarra, our Regional Formation Director, convened this wonderful study group to meet for 8 weeks focused on the encyclical. We study, read, reflect, pray, share, and discuss in community our personal thoughts on this beautiful writing and how it applies to our lives as Franciscans, members of a family, life in fraternity, and our responsibilities as citizens of the world and a member of the human family. It is a powerful document and a rich experience of community to gather on Friday evenings for our group.

The encyclical can be approached as a document with six themes. To borrow liberally from the podcast from Father Robert Casey, lovingly known as Brother Bobby, ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bzz6oc4C\\_sQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bzz6oc4C_sQ)) Pope Francis begins with assessment of the issues facing the global family. He raises concerns about how we seem to have developed a culture of walls, societies that define themselves as “us” and the “other” as “them. He raised an alarm about how we use and abuse each other and have developed a world with inadequate health care for all, rampant racism, aggressive nationalism, and widespread hunger.

The Holy Father invokes the scripture parable of The Good Samaritan to ask us to consider each of the characters in the narrative, and calls us to examine closely how we all must consider a transformation, which he calls conversion. This third theme of conversion is one that invites us to a new humanity of solidarity, mutual belonging, embracing all, and shunning the kind of individualism that only considers the “I” without taking in the concept of the common good.

The fourth theme is a call to action to develop a global politic that reorganizes with attention to the weak and vulnerable. Pope Francis then enunciates what he has previously stated so clearly, specifically that war is never fruitful, nuclear weapons must be eradicated, and the death penalty is never admissible. Finally, the Holy Father calls for religion, our tie to the Divine, to be at the service of fraternity in our world. It is only through true faith that we can overcome our present-day obstacles and establish a peaceful and harmonious world.

A deep note of gratitude to our regional officers for organizing and convening the study group, for giving us an opportunity to live out the loving and harmonious community that our Lord and St. Francis calls us to live.

Many blessings to all.

Peace and All Good,  
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