

**Encyclical Letter: Fratelli Tutti
of the Holy Father, Francis
on Fraternity and Social Friendship
A Summary**

Introduction

Inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis gives us Fratelli Tutti, a proposal for a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel. It is a call to love others as brothers and sisters; to recognize and love every person with a love without limits; and to encounter others in a way that is capable of overcoming all distance and every temptation. Fratelli Tutti does not claim to offer a comprehensive teaching on fraternal love but seeks rather to consider its universal scope - the dignity of each and every human person.

Chapter One: Dark Clouds Over A Closed World

The first chapter describes the dark clouds that extend to all parts of the world, hindering the development of universal fraternity and leaving many people wounded by the roadside, discarded and rejected. It reflects on the many distortions of the contemporary era: the manipulation and the deformity of democracy, freedom, justice; the loss of the meaning of the social community and history; selfishness and indifference toward the common good; the market system based on profit and the culture of waste; unemployment, racism, poverty; and the disparity of rights. While these inequities may tempt us to raise our arms in surrender, this is not the way to restore hope and bring about renewal. We must follow a culture of the other; of reviving the sense that we are a global community, and that our lifestyles, our relationships, the organization of our societies, and the meaning of our existence, matter.

Chapter Two: A Stranger On The Road

The second chapter is dedicated to this figure of the stranger on the road, wounded and cast aside amid the dark clouds of a closed world; a society that has turned its back on the suffering and care of its most frail and vulnerable. Just like the Good Samaritan, we are called to become neighbours to others, to overcome prejudices, personal interests, and historical and cultural barriers. We are called to create a society that includes and integrates the fallen and the suffering. Pope Francis calls us to rediscover our vocation as citizens of our own nations and of the world. He summons us to be builders of a new social order and to be aware that the existence of each and every individual is deeply tied to the other; that Christ is the face of the other.

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