

Reflections for the Six Weeks of Lent

with Pope Francis' encyclical, *FRATELLI TUTTI* on Fraternity and Social Friendship,
and the 2011 LSA General Chapter Document,
A COMMON TREASURE on the Core Values of our Family Spirit



WEEK 1 We care for one another. Caring gives birth to covenant relationships, empathy, friendship, tenderness, compassion, mercy, unconditional love, and deep respect.



Care

Fratelli Tutti – 115 "...we strive to build a common future. Solidarity finds concrete expression in service, which can take a variety of forms in an effect to care for others. And service in great part means "caring for vulnerability, for the vulnerable members of our families, our society, our people."

Who am I caring for during this Lenten season?

WEEK 2 Belief in the capacity to rise beyond ones struggles



Hope

Fratelli Tutti – 55 "...Hope speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love...Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile. Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope."

Today I am hopeful for _____

WEEK 3 The power of growth is in relationship where in every encounter we are both giver and receiver. We value power with vs power over.



Mutuality

Fratelli Tutti – 213 "The dignity of others is to be respected in all circumstances not because that dignity is something we have invented or imagined, but because human beings possess an intrinsic worth superior to that of material objects and contingent situations. This requires that they be treated differently. That every human being possesses an inalienable dignity is a truth that corresponds to human nature apart from all cultural change."

Do I truly meet others with mutuality?

WEEK 4 Our spirituality leads to personal transformation and transformation of the world.



Transformation

Fratelli Tutti – 224 "Kindness frees us from the cruelty that at times infects humans relationships, from the anxiety that prevents us from thinking of others, from the frantic flurry of activity that forgets that others also have a right to be happy. Often nowadays we find neither the time nor the energy to stop and be kind to others, to say excuse me, pardon me, thank you. Yet every now and then, miraculously a kind person appears and is willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference..."

How do I transform myself and my world when I am kind?

WEEK 5



Commitment

We are one family, bonded together and sent to change conditions that breed poverty, injustice, discrimination and marginalization.

Fratelli Tutti – 230 “Working to overcome our divisions without losing our identity as individuals presumes that a basic sense of belonging is present in everyone. Indeed, society benefits when each person and social group feels truly at home. In a family, parents, grandparents and children all feel at home; no one is excluded. If someone has a problem, even a serious one, even if he brought it upon himself, the rest of the family comes to his assistance; they support him. His problems are theirs.....In families, everyone contributes to the common purpose; everyone works for the common good, not denying each person’s individuality but encouraging and supporting it.The joys and sorrows of each of the family members is felt by all. ...If only we could view our political opponents or neighbors in the same way that we view our children or our spouse or mother or father!”

How am I committed to my world family?

WEEK 6



Believe

We live what we believe. We are sent to those who neither voice nor influence in this world.

Fratelli Tutti – 35 “....If only this (pandemic) may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing. If only we might keep in mind all those persons who died for lack of respirators, partly as a result of the dismantling, year after year, of healthcare systems. If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might rediscover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human family can experience a rebirth, with all its faces, all its hands and all its voices, beyond the wall that we have erected.

Are we living what we believe as a whole?

CLOSING PRAYER EACH EVENING:

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