

Fratelli Tutti: Review of Chapters 3 & 4

January 14, 2021

Kathleen Nguyen

As we move into chapter three, *Envisaging and Engendering an Open World*, Pope Francis reminds us that as human beings, we are made to be in relationship with others. “Life exists where there is bonding, communion, fraternity; and life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity.” [Fratelli Tutti, 87]

Nurturing healthy relationships involves opening-up and moving outside oneself to connect with others. Infused with charity that God bestows upon us, love expands and enriches us as we give ourselves for the sake of the other. If we practice loving in such a way, eventually we can relate to all in this manner and “make possible a social friendship that excludes no one and a fraternity that is open to all” [Fratelli Tutti, 94]. The Pontiff continues by explaining that social friendship is “a love capable of transcending borders” thus making an open world. This fraternity is for all because our inherent dignity was given to us all freely by God, our Creator. Everyone is valuable. The right to live with dignity cannot be denied to anyone. By these ways, we can envisage and engender an open world.

Chapter four, *A Heart Open to the Whole World*, continues the exploration of fraternity through a global lens. Acknowledging the need for all countries to have the proper conditions for its’ people to live with dignity and have opportunities for integral development, the Pontiff paints a picture of those who are forced to migrate. Pope Francis encourages us to respond to migrating persons who have arrived in our country in four ways: welcome, protect, promote, and integrate. We are all in this together and we must have fundamental human rights for all. Solidarity is the way forward which can be found through global juridical, political, and economic order.

Pope Francis calls us to have an open heart so that we can recognize the gift of the other, elevate what unites us, and live with a spirit of fraternal gratuitousness. The Pontiff explains the factor of gratuitousness as “the ability to do some things simply because they are good in themselves, without concern for personal gain or recompense.” [Fratelli Tutti, 139]. God gives freely and we must do the same.

There is a need to balance localization and globalization through universal fraternity and social friendship as detailed in the previous chapter. When a local community has a healthy sense of self, is firmly rooted in its culture, cares for and cultivates it, that local can move forward to learn and grow from the differences in others. This is a healthy living culture that nourishes itself on the balance between the “love of one’s native land and a sound sense of belonging to our larger human family” [Fratelli Tutti, 149]. It is the communion of the two we need to cultivate and to achieve this we must have an open heart.



ENVISAGING AND ENGENDERING AN OPEN WORLD



Jesus told us: “You are all brothers and sisters” (Mt 23:8)

The call to universal fraternity requires openness:

- ▶ Human beings find their fulfilment in the sincere gift of self to others.
- ▶ Love calls for a greater ability to accept others and to reach out to the margins.
- ▶ A love capable of transcending borders is the basis of “social friendship.”



PROMOTING THE GOOD MEANS PROMOTING VALUES THAT ADVANCE INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

How can that be achieved?

- ✓ By thinking and acting in terms of community.
- ✓ By combatting the structural causes of poverty and inequality.
- ✓ By requiring the state to be present and active and to invest in assistance to the vulnerable.
- ✓ By insuring that no one is excluded.
- ✓ By establishing a real and lasting peace based on a global ethic of solidarity and service.

[*Every person is valuable and has the right to live with dignity.*]



A HEART OPEN TO THE WHOLE WORLD

WHAT ACTIONS WORK IN FAVOR OF UNIVERSAL FRATERNITY?

1

Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and all those on the margins.

2

Becoming more aware that nowadays either we are all saved together or no one is saved.

3

Forging a global juridical, political, and economic order that favors the development of all peoples in solidarity.

What is gratuitousness?

- ▶ Doing some things simply because they are good in themselves.
- ▶ Acting without concern for personal gain or recompense.
- ▶ Welcoming strangers, even though this brings us no immediate tangible benefit.



“The true worth of the different countries of our world is measured by their ability to think as part of the larger human family. God always gives freely.”

Every healthy culture is open and welcoming by its very nature:

Opening our minds and hearts helps us to understand those who are different.

In the universal communion each human group discovers its own beauty.

Human beings are limited beings who are nevertheless limitless.

Is it possible for us to be open to our neighbors within a family of nations?

Chapter 3: Envisaging and Engendering an Open World

Moving beyond our Ourselves

- The unique value of love

A love ever more open

- Open societies that integrate everyone
- Inadequate understandings of universal love

Beyond a world of “associates”

- Liberty, equality, and fraternity

A Universal Love that Promotes Persons

Promoting the Moral Good

- The value of solidarity
- Re-envisioning the social role of property
- Rights without borders
- The rights of peoples

Chapter 4: A Heart Open to the Whole World

Borders and their Limits

Reciprocal Gifts

- A fruitful exchange
- A gratuitousness open to others

Local and Universal

- Local flavor
- A universal horizon
- Starting with our own region