

Fratelli Tutti - Summary of Chapters 7 and 8

In his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis reminds us all that it is not enough just to engage in encounter. We have to face the reality of the injuries of past mis-encounters, and so we have to establish and walk the paths of re-encounter (Ch. 7). We need to heal the wounds, which requires seeking and offering forgiveness. To forgive is not to forget. We need to be daring and start from the truth—the recognition of historical truth—which is the inseparable companion of justice and mercy. All this is indispensable for advancing towards peace. Conflict is inevitable on the road to peace, but violence is inadmissible. That is why war is a recourse that must be rejected, and the death penalty a practice that must be eliminated.

PATHS OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER



ON THE PATH TOWARD PEACE, THE PROCESSES OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER ARE VERY NECESSARY:

✓
In true reconciliation.

✓
In common projects that do not deny each person's individuality.

✓
In recognizing, protecting, and restoring the dignity of all persons.

✓
In the option for the poor, the dispossessed, and the discarded.

✓
In understanding and appreciating the meaning of forgiveness.

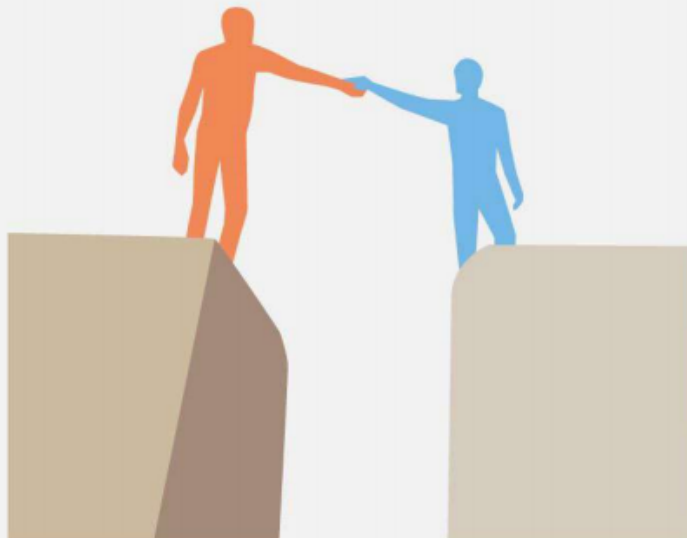


Jesus never promoted violence or intolerance.

The Gospel tells us to forgive "seventy times seven times" (Mt 18,22)

TRUE FORGIVENESS AND TRUE RECONCILIATION:

- ▶ Are achieved in conflict and are resolved through dialogue.
- ▶ Abstain from enmities and mutual hatred.
- ▶ Facilitate an honest discussion of differences, founded on a desire for justice.
- ▶ Do not mean forgetting or impunity.
- ▶ Do not fall into the vicious circle of vengeance.



"I ask God to prepare our hearts to encounter our brothers and sisters, so that we may overcome our differences rooted in political thinking, language, culture and religion."

POPE FRANCIS

The different religions of the world recognize human beings as God's creatures. As creatures, we are in a relationship of fraternity. The religions are called to the service of fraternity in the world (Ch. 8). In dialogue and with hearts open to the world, we can establish social friendship and fraternity. In our openness to the Father of all, we recognize our universal condition as brothers and sisters. For Christians, the wellspring of human dignity and fraternity is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that is what inspires our actions and commitments. This path of fraternity also has a Mother called Mary. Faced with those injured by the shadows of a closed world and still lying by the roadside, we are invited by Pope Francis to make our own the world's desire for fraternity, starting with the recognition that we are "*Fratelli tutti*", **brothers and sisters all**.

RELIGIONS AT THE SERVICE OF FRATERNITY IN OUR WORLD



ONLY WITH THE AWARENESS THAT WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD CAN WE LIVE IN PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER:

The different religions contribute significantly to building fraternity.

Seeking God helps us recognize one another as travelling companions, truly brothers and sisters.

The denial of religious freedom and freedom of conscience leaves humanity impoverished.



THE CHURCH IS A HOME WITH OPEN DOORS, BECAUSE SHE IS A MOTHER:

1

She builds bridges

2

She breaks down walls

3

She sows seeds of reconciliation

A JOURNEY OF PEACE IS POSSIBLE AMONG RELIGIONS:

- ▶ The point of departure must be God's way of seeing things, for God sees with his heart.
- ▶ Violence has no basis in our fundamental religious convictions.
- ▶ Sincere and humble worship of God bears fruit in respect for life, dignity, and freedom.



AN ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN PRAYER

O God, Trinity of love,
from the profound communion of your divine life,
pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.
Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,
in his family of Nazareth,
and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,
discovering Christ in each human being,
recognizing him crucified
in the sufferings of the abandoned
and forgotten of our world,
and risen in each brother or sister
who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.
Amen.

Religious leaders are called to be true "people of dialogue": to cooperate in building peace as authentic mediators.

Resource: <https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/fratelli-tutti/risorse/infografiche.html>

Submitted by Fr. Julian Bilyj, ECSD Chaplain