

## Fratelli Tutti

An Invitation to build a world based on fraternity and Social Friendship

### Reflection Lent Week 3



When you read the story of the 'Good Samaritan', which of the characters do you find yourself associating with most? I suppose most of us as Christians and as Vincentians would like to think we associate most with the Good Samaritan.

In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis uses this parable to help us see that in actual fact we probably associate with all of the characters at times. As consumers we buy goods that are produced by people paid extremely poorly or who have working conditions that verge on dangerous. Like the priest in the story, we turn a blind eye in order to get what we want at a price we like.

We really need to read the 'overture' to this parable. The Lawyer asks Jesus '*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*' This is a great question for us to reflect on, especially during Lent!!!

Then Jesus answers him; '*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind; and you must love your neighbour as yourself.*' Jesus quotes these words from the Torah, words we find in the Bible in Exodus and Leviticus. Pope Francis tells us that Rabbi Hillel, a Rabbi in the century before Christ, summed up the importance of these words saying, '*This is the entire Torah. Everything else is commentary.*'

Jesus reminds us that before anything else we must love God...with our ENTIRE being. This can only happen if we take time to be with Him in silence. Over these months of lockdown, we've heard the birds sing in ways we can't hear them with cars and planes and our own rushing around. The same with listening to God. I hear His voice in the silence. Sometimes it's in those moments of quiet prayer when I just sit and listen. Other times it's in the pain I feel when I see injustices happen to my sisters and brothers. Often for us as Vincentians it happens when I'm with those I serve and I see and hear their struggles.

These are the moments when God invites me to love my neighbour, my brothers and sisters, as I want to be loved. In Fratelli Tutti Pope Francis calls us to acknowledge everyone as brothers and sisters. He invites us to be alert to their pain and acknowledge the times that perhaps I cause that pain...and as Christians, as Vincentians, our call is to do something to alleviate that pain.

#### Reflection Points

**Reflect on some of the visits you have made as a Vincentian. Did you enter the house as a guest, as a 'problem sorter' or as someone open to hear and share the pains and struggles of your sisters and brothers?**