

## Fratelli Tutti

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

### Reflection Lent Week 4



What does the phrase, 'hidden exiles' conjure up for you?

Pope Francis uses this powerful phrase, 'hidden exiles', to describe the people in our world who 'exist without belonging and without participating', and are sometimes seen as a burden. He invites us to be aware of them and be open to them.

Among those classed as hidden exiles Pope Francis mentions those with disabilities and those who are elderly, but there are so many others who feel left out. In our bid to care for them do we ensure they have active participation in our civil and ecclesial communities? Do they have a voice? Are their gifts and talents being utilised?

As Vincentians we are called to give a voice to those who are voiceless.....not our voice, but their voice. We are called to walk beside them as children of God where all have an equal place in the eyes of the Father.

Both St Vincent and Pope Francis offer the same solution to including the hidden exiles into our communities: offer them love and acceptance and allow ourselves to receive love from them; a love where no-one is the second class citizen, but where all are children of God and each one's gifts and talents are used for the good of all.

### **Reflection Points**

Who are the hidden exiles you encounter as you carry out your visits?

In what ways do you help them use their voice?

What can you do to help them become more integrated in our Church communities?