

BEC Reflection

HOPE BELIEVE, LIVE and GIVE

CLOSING PRAYER:

Invite another BEC member to say the concluding the prayer.

Lord Jesus, thank you for your fraternal love and sacrifice for us. Teach us to live the Gospel like Saint Francis, discovering Jesus in each person that we meet. Teach us Lord to stay close and faithful to you. Help us to forge a personal relationship with you and find nourishment in prayer. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

Prayer of St. Francis

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred,
let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord,
And where there's doubt,
true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life,
let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Chorus:

***Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.***

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to
eternal life.

(Chorus)



SOLIDARITY in DIVERSITY

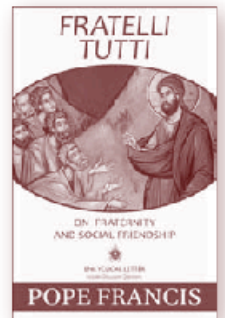
EVENT:
World Harmony Week

SOCIAL MEDIA TREND:
#loveothers

INTRODUCTION:

"God has created all humans equal in rights, duties and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters".

The unanticipated outburst of the Covid-19 pandemic, created uncontrollable fear and uncertainty, proving that man cannot live in isolation. The world came together uniting one another in prayer regardless of race and religion in battling the global pandemic. Solidarity was the answer that bound people together as one, creating a shared interest for a common good. Pope Francis released his third encyclical - FRATELLI TUTTI (All Brothers) on the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. The Gospel story was the Parable of the Good Samaritan, proposing mankind to lead a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel. (FT2). This month as we celebrate World Harmony Week from 1-7 February 2021, let us preserve unity in humility.



OPENING PRAYER

FRATELLI TUTTI: A PRAYER TO 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.

DIALOGUE

An elderly priest was giving a retreat to a young priest who was newly ordained. The elderly priest told the young priest on the importance of going for regular spiritual retreat for his own spiritual growth and personal. Then, the elderly priest posed an unexpected question to the young priest. "Son, can you tell me when exactly does the night break into day and what are the signs you would look for to recognize the coming of the day?"



The young priest answered confidently, "Father, it is when I see the first rays of the sun coming from the East early in the morning, then I would think that the night is over and day has just begun. When I am able to distinguish the stem of a tree in the forest from a human being, then I believe that another day had just started. Are you happy with my answer, Father?"

The elderly priest put his hands around the young priest and said with a smile: "You are incorrect young man and let me tell you what happens when there is spiritual growth in a person. As for me, I would perceive the coming of the day only when I am able to recognize in the face of each man and woman, a brother or a sister. Otherwise, I feel that I am still in the power of darkness."

Source: Words of Monsignor Mitchel Anthony during his sermon for Mass on 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time on Nov. 15, 2020).

Share your thoughts with your BEC members.

- How has your spiritual life been during this pandemic?
- Were you able to go beyond the situation or were you caught in the darkness of the clouds?
- What was the message the elderly priest was trying to convey in the dialogue?

DISCERNMENT

Philippians 2: 1-4

Source: Jerusalem Bible

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy.

There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, So that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead.

REFLECTION:

- READ the text aloud and LISTEN with openness.
- READ it silently by yourself until a word or phrase touches or strikes you.
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through the word or phrase?
- What do you say to the Lord in response to his Word?
- Share in small groups (3-4 persons) the verse that has touched you.

DEEDS:

Our task for this month will be to:

- Ensure thorough readiness is carried out at the core team meetings, before BEC gatherings (even for online sessions).
- Promote World Harmony Week in your own way with your BEC and residents of other faiths in your vicinity.
- Go beyond your comfort zone & check if your BEC is in solidarity with the oppressed, denied co-equality (e.g. women & handicap), people of other faiths, the marginalised or neglected.

