

All Saints Day Sunday 1st November

*From the Papal Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti'
in which Pope Francis explores fraternity and social friendship.*

5. Issues of human fraternity and social friendship have always been a concern of mine. In recent years I have spoken of them repeatedly and in different settings. In this Encyclical I have sought to bring together many of those statements and to situate them in a broader context of reflection. In the preparation of *Laudate si*, I had a source of inspiration in my brother Bartholomew, the Orthodox Patriarch, who has spoken forcefully of our need to care for creation. In this case, I have felt particularly encouraged by the grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, with whom I met in Abu Dhabi, where we declared that “God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity and just call them to live together as brothers and sisters”. This was no mere diplomatic gesture, but a reflection born of dialogue and common commitment. The present Encyclical takes up and develops some of the great themes raised in the Document that we both signed. I have also incorporated along with my own thoughts, a number of letters documents and considerations that I have received from many individuals and groups throughout the world

6. The following pages do not claim to offer a complete teaching on fraternal love, but rather to consider its universal scope, its openness to every man and woman. I offer this social Encyclical as a modest contribution to continued reflection, in the hope that in the face of present-day attempts to eliminate or ignore others, we may prove capable of responding with a new vision of fraternity and social friendship that will not remain at the level of words. Although I have written it from the Christian convictions that inspire and sustain me, I have sought to make this reflection an invitation to dialogue among all people of good will.