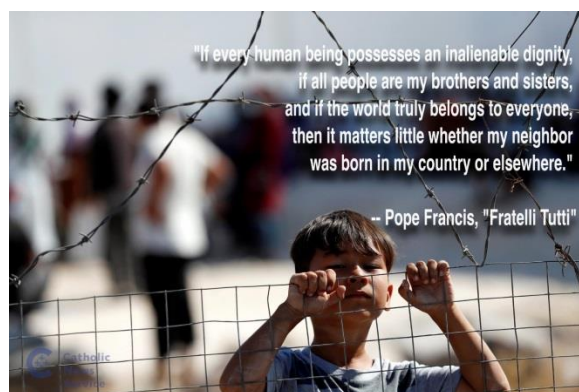




Pope Francis' prayer intention for October blends well with his latest encyclical which he has called "Fratelli Tutti". These were the words with which St Francis of Assisi addressed his brothers and sisters when he called them to a way of life marked by the Gospel. Although Pope Francis could have changed the title to a more inclusive "Fratelli e Sorelle" (Brothers and Sisters) he chose to use the words of St Francis. Throughout the encyclical, however, it is obvious that he is not trying to exclude more than half the human race. In the prayer intention for this month, Pope Francis is calling all of us who have not been ordained, especially women, to participate in leadership and responsibility in the Church.

This latest encyclical invites us to learn from the many acts of kindness and selflessness we have witnessed during the Covid-19 pandemic and to commit ourselves to the building of a new society based on love for others. Pope Francis says:

"Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all."



The encyclical speaks not only to the Church, but to the whole world as it covers a wide range of issues: the injustices of our world; the need to overcome prejudice; the right to live in dignity; poverty; the common good; dialogue and friendship; peace; religious freedom.

Pope Francis calls on Catholics and people of good will to “dream together” as members of a “single family dwelling in a common home” in order to build a “community of belonging and solidarity”.

"If every human being possesses an inalienable dignity, if all people are my brothers and sisters, and if the world truly belongs to everyone, then it matters little whether my neighbour was born in my country or elsewhere." #FratelliTutti



We are the Church of today and we are asked to do more than attend Mass. We are called to be Christ in our world. We are called, by our baptism, to participate in the life of the Church and to take our place as leaders in our community. The ways in which we lead will differ from person to person.

Some will show leadership by belonging to parish groups.

Some will show leadership by giving a smile to others.

Some will show leadership by the ministry of prayer.

Some will show leadership by helping our young people develop in their faith.

Some will show leadership by assisting as servers, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, stewards.

Some will show leadership by helping clean the church especially after services.

Some will show leadership by making tea and coffee when we have special services.

Some will show leadership by organising raffles, cake sales etc.

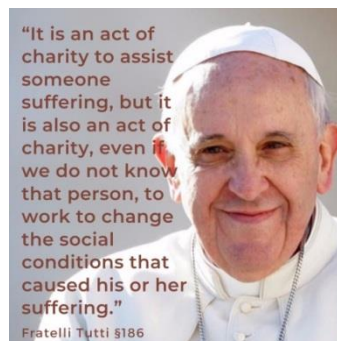
Some will show leadership by being part of our prayer through music.

Some will show leadership by supporting the development of our Parish Centre.

Canon Alan may be the ordained leader of our community but he needs our support. How could you show leadership in the Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead? Will you?

All of us, but especially women, need to be prepared to take positions of leadership in our Church and our world.

This is how we will bring about social justice; how we will bring about the reign of God; how we will care for our common home; how we will live as sisters and brothers.



PS I smiled when I heard this mantra today:

If in doubt, love and wash your hands!