


Hope:
Toward an
Architecture of Peace



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THEOLOGY DAY PRESENTATION FALL 2022

"Signs of the Times"
Approaching 2023

Queen Elizabeth II
Inflation Climate Change
Covid 19
Don't Say Gay Uvalde
US Soccer Ukraine
Mass Shootings
Global Economic Collapse
Mikhail Gorbachev
"Roe v. Wade"
Ketanjil Brown Jackson

"Signs of the Times"
Approaching Advent



"Signs of the Times"
Back then
1963

JFK Assassination
Beatlemania Vietnam
Ku Klux Klan
"I Have A Dream"
Alcatraz
James Meredith
Polio Vaccine
Peace On Earth
Birmingham

Presentation
Outline

- Pope John XXIII:
A Brief Glimpse at the "Good Pope"
- Pacem in terris (Peace on Earth)
 - April 11, 1963
 - Key Takeaways: Method, Social Teaching, Optimism
- Pause:
 - Thoughts, Reactions, Comments, etc
- FFWD: A Leap in Time (and Faith):
Sixty Years Later
- A Way Forward: Fratelli Tutti's
- To See, Judge, and Act: Toward an Architecture of Peace

Overview: Social Teaching

CONTINUITY (with the Tradition)

- **Dignity of the human person** remains a central teaching claim
- **Extremes avoided** (e.g., individualism and collectivism)
- **Common good** is the end of the state (PP 53-66)
- **Principle of subsidiarity** and socialization "govern the proper role of the state"
 - States should do all they can to allow for individuals, families, etc., to do all they can
 - Note: The word "globalization" not yet used but awareness that problems are becoming more widespread & too complex for the family and the individual to handle alone

Overview: Social Teaching (continued)

Major Contribution: The topic of PEACE is discussed in CST!

- Vision of peace offered AND the means/program that should be used to make peace present is outlined
- No real engagement with just war theory- rather there is a **SHIFT from war to peace** (22)
- Everyone is called to be a peacemaker (166-173)



Fratelli tutti
 ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP
 OCTOBER 3, 2020

Overview

Second encyclical of Pope Francis

- Ladauto si (2015)
- John Rees: "Together LS and FT are a "grand strategic statement"

Heart and Soul of the Document: Chapter 2!

- 14,000 word reflection on the parable of the Good Samaritan
- Faith can lead us beyond our "grieving indifference" for the other(s) in our midst

"Beautiful meditation on what life together as human family can be

Key Points...

Overarching theme: See life's detail in all it's fullness and carry it all and reach outward

- See it all: Beauty and Pain, Joy and Grief, etc.
- Extend one's circle of comfort and concern
- Not just individuals but includes COUNTRIES!
- FT 150: it matters little where one's neighbor is born!

Long list given of the false materialisms in our lives

The "root" of the letter: a specific interfaith encounter

- Story of the Good Samaritan (Luke)
- Message: Faith can lead us beyond our "grieving indifference" toward the other(s) in our midst

Key Points...

The Foundation:
ABSOLUTE Dignity of the human person

- "Fratelli tutti exhorts religions to be models of dialogue, brokers of peace, and bearers of the message of transcendent love to a hungry, cynical, and uprooted world."

Biblical command: Welcome the stranger

- Forge a relationship of hospitality regardless of hostility (expected or feared)

Concern:
Two Perspectives

Julie Hanlon Rubio: How far can this message reach when...

- "...its tone, genre, and language inescapably grate against its core message."
- Where are women's voices?
- "Women, not men, are asked to read themselves into the document."

Craig A. Ford, Jr: There is a large moral difference between the thoughts of Christians and thoughts that are Christian...

- Will it be Good News to those who are marginalized?
- The role of social love to create bonds and expand one's circle
- From basic truth to HARD TRUTHS: Will we dismantle the attitudes and initiatives of various evils on our society?
- Will we abandon indifference?

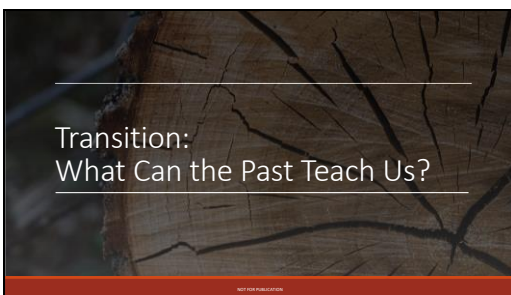
Two Truths
and a....
Hard Truth

Truth: Engagement with brothers and sisters we do not know must be ongoing.

Truth: Encounters with others unlike us must be genuine.

Hard Truth: We don't know what it means (or how to) to look at another human person and not categorize them as either "like" or "unlike" ourselves.

Transition:
What Can the Past Teach Us?






Musings: Personal Circle

- Listen with the Ear of Your Heart....
 - What did you hear in this presentation?
 - What's calling you forward, backwards, to remain in place?
- Eyes Open
 - What do you see in your own life as you think about an "architecture of peace"?
 - What do you see as missing? What's needed?
- Next steps
 - What is one, next and achievable "action" step

Why Advocate?
"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not."
- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax



- **See**
 - What do you see in your local circle
 - What are the hard truths?
- **Judge**
 - What's needed for your local circle in terms of activating an "architecture of peace"
- **Act**
 - What is one, next and achievable "action" step on the local level

Musings: Your Local Circle

**Musings:
Beyond
Your Circle**

Read and Get Inspired

- From the College Classroom:
 - Marcus Mescher, "The Ethics of Encounter" (2020)
 - Maureen O'Connell, "Undoing the Knots: Five Generations of American Catholic Anti-Blackness" (Jan 2022)
- Fresh off the Press: Sept 2022!
 - Karen Gonzalez, Beyond Welcome: Centering Immigrants in Our Christian Response to Immigration

Repetition of See, Judge, and Act

Patience and Hope

Thank you for your time with me!
