



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
PRO
DIALOGO INTER RELIGIONES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON **FRATELLI TUTTI**
TANGAZA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, NAIROBI, KENYA, 19 AUGUST 2021

Message of His Em. Cardinal Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, MCCJ

President

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

1. At the beginning of this International Conference, on behalf of His Holiness Pope Francis, I offer heartfelt wishes to co-organisers and participants of this online event. I really appreciate the fact that academic institutions join hands to promote such a beautiful example of collaboration in favour of Interreligious Dialogue.

2. Interreligious dialogue is at the heart of the reflections and actions of Pope Francis. For Pope Francis dialogue is the way to open up to the needs of the world and build social friendship: “Persistent and courageous dialogue does not make headlines, but quietly helps the world to live much better than we imagine” (*Ft 6*). Dialogue respects and seeks the truth; dialogue gives birth to the culture of encounter, i.e. encounter becomes a way of life, a passion and a desire.

3. The leaders of different religious traditions and the communities they lead, walking together on the path of interreligious dialogue, can truly make their contribution to universal brotherhood in the societies in which they live. As Pope Francis writes in *Fratelli tutti*: “It is wrong when the only voices to be heard in public debate are those of the powerful and ‘experts’. Room needs to be made for reflections born of religious traditions that are the repository of centuries of experience and wisdom” (*Ft 275*).

In our days, which show signs of a growing tendency for all to go their own separate ways, also due to the current pandemic situation, we can rediscover the *path of fraternity*. A fraternal society, therefore, will be the one that promotes education for dialogue to defeat the virus of “radical individualism” (*Ft 105*) and to allow everyone to give the best of themselves.

4. *Fratelli Tutti* is a precious gift that the Holy Father has given not only to Catholics but to the whole of humanity. We are on the road! *Fratelli tutti* encourages us to keep treading the common ground of human fraternity. This common ground is a truth that is ancient, but it may sound new in today's world, which is often atrophied by selfishness. Believers of different religious traditions are witnesses and bearers of values that can offer a great contribution to the building of healthier and more just societies. Integrity, fidelity, concern for common good, kindness, and mercy are valuable tools that form part of the spiritual treasury of our diverse religious traditions.

5. I hope that this Symposium can contribute to building universal fraternity in the societies in which we live. Therefore, I would like to conclude wishing that the fruitful exchanges of this International Conference may not be limited to those who are participating online or in presence, so that the spirit of *Fratelli tutti* may enrich our lives and our communities for the good of humanity.

Once again, I would like to wish each of you and the Institutions you represent to profit the most of this amazing global assembly and express my gratitude to Fr. Innocent Maganya H. M.Afr. and IRDIS for being able to timely envisage and organise such a meaningful event.

Luigi Cardinal Casaroli

