

LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

“Love One Another”

Ponder in Your Heart



As we’ve learned in our review of Catholic Social Teaching over the past few months, we Catholics are called to live our faith. We are to listen for the voice of God who beckons us to heal our broken world. **Pope Francis encourages us to see with the merciful eyes of our hearts, to choose what is true, and then to take action for a just outcome.**

In his 2020 book, *A Time to Dream: A Path to a Better Future*, our Holy Father shares a pastoral way to meet the challenges our world presents. Simply stated, he tells us to first review the situation (To See), then make a judgment about the facts in light of the principles of our faith (To Choose). Finally, he urges us to decide what we can and should do (To Act).

To See “It helps to focus on concrete situations: you see faces looking for life and love in the reality of each person, of each people....So rather than overwhelm you, it invites you to ponder and to respond with hope.” “Come close and allow yourself to be struck by what you see.”

To Choose “A time of trial is always a time of distinguishing the path of the good that leads to the future from other paths that lead nowhere or backward. With clarity, we can better choose the first.” Discern what is right in God’s eyes, then choose.

To Act “Let it not be said, in years to come, that in response to the coronavirus we failed to act to restore the dignity of our peoples, to recover our memory and to remember our roots.” “Act concretely to heal and repair.”

Pope Francis encourages us not to look away from hardship and suffering in our world. Instead “remember the truth that God put in our hearts: that we belong to Him and to each other.” As Catholics, we know who we are and Whose we are. We *must* therefore work for justice so the world may know peace.

Reflection questions:

1. When I see injustice or suffering, do I make time to see and understand what is happening?
2. Do I listen for God’s voice rather than my own when choosing the right thing to do?
3. Am I a complacent spectator or bystander to my neighbor in need, or do I respond with mercy and justice?



Wisdom from Mother Teresa

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”



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Here are 5 key themes from the 2020 papal encyclical

Fratelli Tutti. In it **Pope Francis identifies our social ills and calls us to build a new society based on loving our neighbor.**

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In this short Loyola Press article, we learn that discernment

is a time-honored decision-making process that honors the place of God’s will in our lives.

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PRAY



The Prayer of St. Francis calls us to pause, pray and reflect on who we

are and what it is that we are created to do. **Pray the St. Francis prayer.**

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