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Introduction to Issue 5, Number 1

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Introduction to Issue 5, Number 1

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We are pleased to share with you Issue 5, Number 1. In this issue we are devoting a special section of essays to the new Social Encyclical by Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship (FT)*, a very important and engaging work on pressing global peace and justice issues of our day addressed to all people of good will, and a significant addition to the body of Catholic social teaching/social thought. The Encyclical has been well received and widely commented on globally; following *Laudato Si'*, with this Encyclical Pope Francis continues to contribute to the vitally necessary global dialogue on global trends and dynamics, from his unique position as a highly respected and loved global leader, who is not only discussing the empirical realities, but even more importantly, the major moral choices before us from the global common good perspective. Would that more political leaders did the same, and talked about the national and global common good.

We keep our comments brief since the essays below, providing global and Christian and non-Christian perspectives, discuss various aspects of FT, including its genesis. We invited the authors to write these essays; they choose their topics. We do want to highlight in this introduction two points: St. Francis of Assisi was the inspiration for Pope Francis: "This saint of fraternal love, simplicity and joy, who inspired me to write the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, prompts me once more to devote this new Encyclical to fraternity and social friendship"(para 2). But the unique inspiration, for a pope, of a document co-authored with a Muslim world leader was also key: as Pope Francis wrote of the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, which he co-authored with the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb in 2019: "The present Encyclical takes up and develops some of the great themes raised in the Document that we both signed" (para 5). Interestingly, Pope Francis goes on to say: "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" (para 5), also showing his openness to a variety of sources.

We hope the essays on *Fratelli Tutti* will contribute to the much needed discussion, and application, of the Encyclical. We invite others to send us essays on FT for upcoming issues of the *Journal of Social Encounters* as we continue the discussion of it.

We are sure you will find the other essays in this issue informative and engaging as well. We commend the authors for the quality of their work, and we believe they make a valuable contribution to our knowledge and to the scholarly literature in peace and justice studies.

If you wish to submit an essay on any peace and justice issue for consideration of publication in the *Journal*, the deadlines are: March 15, 2021 for the August 2021 issue; October 15, 2021, for the March/February 2022 issue. All essays are peer-reviewed. Please see the "Policies" link in the upper-left-hand corner of our home page for more information. Please send essays to Dr. Pagnucco and Dr. Okumu. Address any questions to Dr. Pagnucco.