



Address to the President of Italian Republic Mr. Sergio Mattarella

by His Eminence Cardinal Mauro Gambetti

Vicar General of His Holiness for Vatican City and President of the Fratelli tutti Foundation

Rome, Quirinale Palace, 11 May 2024

Mr. President,

Thank you for welcoming us on the occasion of the Meeting on Human Fraternity. I also greet and thank the Nobel Laureates, the representatives of the international organizations that have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and all the eminent personalities. Last year, we concluded the first edition by writing and signing the *Declaration on Human Fraternity in St Peter's Square*.

This year we gathered in the same spirit: “We are different, we have different cultures and religions, but we are brothers and sisters and we want to live in peace”, the Declaration says.

No naivety, only the desire to promote the “culture of fraternity”, which in history has promoted great reforms such as the Charter of Human Rights, and which silently nourishes concrete choices and gestures in people of good will.

In the afternoon, at eleven symbolic points of the Vatican State and the city of Rome, eleven round tables will discuss the principle of fraternity in the fields of the environment and the economy, sport and civil society, information and labour, health and social media, education, local communities and food security, and finally, in the presence of the Holy Father, the round table on children, who teach us how to live in peace



Our invitation was accepted by many public and cultural leaders. We may have captured a sense of urgency: that we should all be involved in the construction of a new social model.

From the process that has emerged from the work of the Round Tables over the last few months, we hope to reap some fruits: firstly, to reposition the principle of fraternity among the principles of equality and freedom; secondly, to stimulate the reforms that are lacking; and finally, to understand where the principle of fraternity is already present in social life, in order to identify the parameters necessary to measure it.

Let us use the Jubilee year to draw up, together with the various minds of our planet, a Charter of the Human Being that goes beyond the mere listing of rights, which are often ignored, overcomes fear and the logic of confrontation, and includes the practical reasons that define us as “human beings” today.

What counteracts the banality of evil, expressed today by a culture of greed and fuelled by the narcissistic drift of individuality, and promotes humanity, are the intrinsic qualities of fraternity: respect for differences and gratitude, equality and gratuitousness, dialogue and welcome, kindness and simplicity, hope and sharing. Increasing our capacity to love is the challenge of all times. Overcoming it means building a policy of global social friendship.

On several occasions, Mr. President, you have reminded us that: 'Peace is not only possible, it is the duty of all: governments, peoples, supranational institutions, economic enterprises, social groups, citizens'.

That is why we want to take up this commitment and put it into daily practice, so that it reaches the minds and hearts of all those in power and those who have responsibility at all levels.

Thank you again, Mr President.