



# *Fratelli tutti*

## **BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL TOGETHER**

### **Universal Destination of Goods**

*The right to private property can only be considered a secondary natural right, derived from the principle of the universal destination of created goods. This has concrete consequences that ought to be reflected in the workings of society. Yet it often happens that secondary rights displace primary and overriding rights, in practice making them irrelevant.*

**Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, paragraph 120**

#### **Watch**

Pope Francis (Vatican News) <https://youtu.be/3gnmljUsA6o>

A short extract of a homily by Pope Francis, part of a catechesis on Healing the World.

#### **Scripture**

*During those days, the entire community of believers was deeply united in heart and soul to such an extent that they stopped claiming private ownership of their possessions. Instead, they held everything in common. ... Not a single person in the community was in need because those who had been affluent sold their houses or lands and brought the proceeds to the emissaries of the Lord. They then distributed the funds to individuals according to their needs.*

*Acts 4:32,34-35*

#### **Questions for discussion**

- What does it mean that the goods of creation are destined for the whole human race?
- What responsibility do owners of private property have? Is ownership a privilege or a duty?
- What are some examples of private property being used well?
- If the world has sufficient resources to meet the need of all its inhabitants, why are so many people hungry?

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## Other Church Teaching

*"We are all one family in the world. Building a community that empowers everyone to attain their full potential through each of us respecting each other's dignity, rights and responsibilities makes the world a better place to live"*

Pope Saint John Paul II, Sollicitudo rei socialis

*On this respect man ought to possess external things, not as his own, but as common, so that, to wit, he is ready to communicate them to others in their need. Hence the Apostle says : "Charge the rich of this world . . . to give easily, to communicate to others,"*

Saint Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae

## Listen

Start Right Here (Casting Crowns) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGvfagBOHJE>

## Prayer

Lord, Father of our human family,  
you created all human beings equal in  
dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal  
spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed  
encounter, dialogue, justice and peace.

Move us to create healthier societies  
and a more dignified world, a world without  
hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open  
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.  
May we recognize the goodness and beauty  
that you have sown in each of us,  
and thus forge bonds of unity, common  
projects, and shared dreams.

Amen.

A Prayer to the Creator, Pope Francis

## Further Learning

Discerning Hearts podcast– Universal Destination of Goods [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TIKU4\\_Ubmg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TIKU4_Ubmg)

History of Quadragesimo Anno and the Universal Destination of Goods (Charles Dygert) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fq7jx4u-tVo>

On the Universal Destination of Goods (Global Catholic Climate Movement) <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/on-the-universal-destination-of-goods/>

Pope Francis, "Fratelli Tutti" and the universal destination of goods (Bishop Robert Barron) [BISHOP BARRON: Pope Francis, "Fratelli Tutti" and the universal destination of goods - Catholic Voice \(catholicvoiceomaha.com\)](https://www.catholicvoiceomaha.com/bishop-barron-pope-francis-fratelli-tutti-and-the-universal-destination-of-goods)