

How to take up the challenge of fraternity. A fact more than a desire
by Leonardo Paris

For Christians, fraternity is not a moral wish, but a theological fact, that falls outside the possibility of anyone to choose. Just like in a family, you don't get to choose your siblings, they are a simple fact. That could offer new eyes capable of facing this challenge with greater tranquility and with the curiosity to discover traces of this "fraternal fact" in the surrounding reality. After all, this is what is happening in the current pandemic. We are certainly faced with the quarrelsome and tiring nature of fraternity but also, and above all, with its evidence. If we have a power, if we stand a chance, this is undoubtedly in sharing, for better or for worse. If we do not share, we literally die, because this is the nature of power. For those who have eyes to see, signs clearly emerge that fraternity is more of a fact than an appeal. In the efforts, perhaps uncoordinated, of many - nurses, doctors, workers, employees, industrialists, institutions - we have witnessed the willingness to put one's own interests at stake for the benefit of others. The cases of selfishness and regression, which should not surprise those who know true fraternity, cannot obscure the fundamental fact, which was the joint effort of a fraternal mankind overwhelmed by an unexpected event.

(Original text: Italian - Copyright: L'Osservatore Romano - 17 settembre 2021 - Traduzione di Leonardo Stefanucci)