

Presenter Notes

Slide 1



Pope Francis' new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, has been described as '*Laudato Si'* for humans.' This is to say that in the same way *Laudato Si'* provided great insight into our Christian responsibility to care for the earth, *Fratelli Tutti* offers a clear argument for caring for our fellow human beings.

A strong theme throughout is human dignity. The Holy Father looks to the parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate this point. He writes,

The parable clearly does not indulge in abstract moralizing, nor is its message merely social and ethical. It speaks to us of an essential and often forgotten aspect of our common humanity: we were created for a fulfilment that can only be found in love. We cannot be indifferent to suffering; we cannot allow anyone to go through life as an outcast. Instead, we should feel indignant, challenged to emerge from our comfortable isolation and to be changed by our contact with human suffering. That is the meaning of dignity. (#68)

Slide 2



Unfortunately, we know that our society has largely failed to uphold the human dignity that every person deserves, and we continue to push millions of our sisters and brothers into extreme poverty on the margins of society.

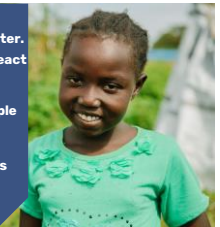
This is even more acutely true for disabled people living around the world.

(click) According to the UN around 1 in 8 people worldwide are disabled and the majority live in poverty.

(click) Roughly 80% of disabled people live in developing countries like South Sudan,

(click) where the overwhelming majority of disabled children (90%) do not attend school.

As Pope Francis astutely writes in *Fratelli Tutti*,

		<p><i>Every human being has the right to live with dignity and to develop integrally; this fundamental right cannot be denied by any country. People have this right even if they are unproductive, or were born with or developed limitations. This does not detract from their great dignity as human persons, a dignity based not on circumstances but on the intrinsic worth of their being. Unless this basic principle is upheld, there will be no future either for fraternity or for the survival of humanity. (#107)</i></p> <p>We therefore must act to create a culture that values each person and recognizes that no matter our way of being in the world, we were all made in the image and likeness of God. Thankfully, we can turn to Jesus' example in the Gospels as a source of inspiration and guidance on how to embrace the outcast and welcome her home into the community.</p> <p><i>Image: Gift (4)</i></p>
Slide 3	<div> <div> <p>Scripture</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the encounter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Jesus react when he meets the disabled person? How do other people react and why? What does the encounter reveal to us about how Jesus treated disabled people? </div>  </div>	<p>We must act now to create a culture that values each person and recognizes that no matter our way of being in the world, we were all made in the image and likeness of God. Thankfully, we can turn to Jesus' example in the Gospels as a source of inspiration and guidance on how to embrace the outcast and welcome her home into the community.</p> <p><i>Share Scripture (found in 'Supporting Materials' pdf) with your class and discuss the following questions:</i></p> <p>Describe the encounter. How does Jesus react when he meets the disabled person? How do other people react and why?</p> <p>What does the encounter reveal to us about how Jesus treated disabled people?</p> <p><i>Image: Siama (10)</i></p>

Slide 4	<p>SCIAP Supporting Children in Africa's Future</p> <p><i>Fratelli Tutti</i></p>  <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + How does the quote taken from <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> relate to the Scripture you have just read? + How does it relate to your everyday life? 	<p>Share <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> excerpt (found in 'Supporting Materials' pdf) with your class and discuss the following questions:</p> <p>How does the quote taken from <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> relate to the Scripture you have just read?</p> <p>How does it relate to your everyday life?</p>
Slide 5	<p>SCIAP & Sudanese Evangelical Mission (SEM)</p> 	<p>Life remains tough in South Sudan. The conflict has left behind a legacy of fear, displacement and despair. The coronavirus has intensified already existing issues of poverty.</p> <p>Our work in South Sudan will provide a lifeline for children with disabilities, their families and communities.</p> <p>The money will help to adapt six schools so that pupils with disabilities can access mainstream schools. Teachers will be trained to better understand the needs of disabled children and how to effectively include them in their classes. The children themselves will be supported through the provision of aids, such as wheelchairs, ramps, hearing aids and canes, as well as health care to help them live more independently and actively participate in lessons, sports and other activities with their classmates.</p> <p>In the wider community, through targeted campaigns, we will help to promote equality and change discriminatory attitudes towards people living with disabilities in South Sudan. Our partners at the Sudanese Evangelical Mission (SEM) are working hard to deliver vital services to the community.</p> <p>This is Goliver Matatio, a Disability Program Coordinator at SEM. He shared this insight on the current situation,</p> <p>"There is a need for inclusive education. There is a need for more awareness in the</p>

		<p>community. There's a need to provide disability aids. There is a need to improve the lives of people with disabilities so that they can participate in the community."</p> <p>"We provide a service to the community. The most important thing that we do is work with the community. We talk with them and then we plan together with them the way forward to reach the most vulnerable people.</p> <p>...We train people with disabilities and their parents. And after training, they can provide for themselves. This is the most important thing I have seen in the community...The attitude towards disability has to change here.....If you raise awareness in the community, you change the attitudes of the people so that people with disabilities have access to services.</p> <p>You cannot only train the people with disabilities, but we also intervene in training government officials so that they can provide the support that people with disabilities need..... many schools are inaccessible. So we need to tell them that new buildings have to be constructed, accessible for persons with disability..... We look at the psychosocial needs of people with disabilities. Children are open to negative attitudes towards them so we need to do a lot of counselling."</p> <p><i>Share the following stories of how SCIAF and our partners have impacted the lives of Gift and Malia. Their stories are presented on the following two slides or copies can be found in the 'Supporting Materials' pdf.</i></p>
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Slide 6

Gift



This is Gift (4) and his mum Charity.

Charity became worried when Gift failed to meet key developmental milestones. At six months old, he couldn't sit up and by one year old he couldn't stand on his own. Charity told us,

"When he was born, he was not able to sit down and stretch his back, has always been bending...A lot of people had already talking negatively about his sickness, that the baby could have been bewitched...I was really stressed and I had a lot going through my mind. I was wondering if my son would ever walk. Then, also, my neighbours were really talking bad about me and my son. [They said] that my child was going to turn into a snake. There were a lot of beliefs and misconceptions in the village about me and him that were brought forward."

Life for Gift and Charity has completely changed since connecting with our partners at SEM. Through different types of active and passive therapies, Gift gained strength and stability that allowed him to sit. Soon he was trained on how to stand and take small steps. Today, SEM have provided Gift with a child walker which he uses to support himself as he stands and walks.

Charity spoke to us about how SEM's support has impacted her family. Charity said,

"What they have done-I am very grateful. Right now I am happy because my son is now well and is walking on his own. However, I almost believed what [my neighbours] were saying. I nearly gave up. But the SEM team really stood with me. They assured me that the boy will walk. As of today, my boy has improved a lot. He can walk now though he is still having difficulties with stretching his neck from the back."

Charity had one more message to share with SCIAF supporters in Scotland. She said,

"Tell them that the woman whom you helped, her son is very happy. Let them continue with the same work and may God help them."

Slide 7



This is Malia (6) and her mum, Rina.

Malia developed a condition called hydrocephalus after birth. Hydrocephalus causes a buildup of excess fluids in the brain which leads to increased head circumference and developmental delays. At the age of one, Malia was still unable to hold her head on her own and she could neither sit nor stand by herself. By five years old, she still could not walk.

Malia needed urgent surgery to fix a tube (shunt) in her head to drain the excess fluids. Rina told us about what it was like before our partners at the Sudanese Evangelical Mission (SEM) were able to provide lifesaving care to her daughter. Rina said,



"By that time my child was very sick. I had visited all the hospitals but all in vain. My daughter's head was very big. She could not even manage to balance and it was difficult to carry her.

My child was only ever laying down. Her biggest problem was her head and also when she slept. She just slept on one side, so you had to change her sleeping position every now and then. Many cautioned me that my daughter would eventually die, but I had trust that my child would be ok. I love her very much."

Malia also suffered bullying from other children who teased her about the size of her head. People in the community also rejected her because her head was too big.

Our partners at SEM were able to provide transportation to and from key medical appointments as well as support Malia and her family through doctor's appointments, referrals and surgery. They also worked with Malia to build her strength, mobility and independence. Today, Malia is able to walk by herself without any assistive device, assist her mother at home with household activities, play with her friends and go to school alone.

Rina told us more about how much SEM's support has meant to her family. She said,

		<p>"I am very grateful for them, and I want this work to continue helping those in need like my daughter. Thank you!!! Thank you!!! Thank you!!!! I could not imagine my daughter would be well. Whenever I meet SEM's team, I imagine them as my family members because of the way they took care of us.</p> <p>I am very happy because my daughter is now a happy soul. She sings to visitors every time one arrives."</p>
Slide 8		<p><i>After sharing the case studies with the class (copies found in 'Supporting Materials' pdf), discuss the following questions:</i></p> <p>What stood out to you from Malia's or Gift's story?</p> <p>What do their stories reveal about how disabled people are treated today?</p> <p>Evaluate SCIAF & SEM's response.</p> <p><i>We recommend closing your lesson in prayer by using the WEE BOX reflection video shared on the next slide.</i></p>
Slide 9		<p>Photo credits: Achuoth Deng and Vatican Media</p>