



53rd WORLD DAY OF PEACE
1st of JANUARY 2020

PEACE AS A JOURNEY OF HOPE:
DIALOGUE, RECONCILIATION AND
ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

Franciscus

1. Peace, a **journey** of hope in the face of obstacles and trial
2. Peace, a **journey** of listening based on memory, solidarity and fraternity
3. Peace, a **journey** of reconciliation in fraternal communion
4. Peace, a **journey** of ecological conversion
5. “We obtain all that we hope for”

Peace as a **journey**

Peace “must be **built up continually**” [GS 78]; it is a **journey made together** in a constant pursuit of the common good, truthfulness and respect for law.
PM 2020

The **Peace process thus requires enduring commitment**... This is a social undertaking, an **ongoing work** in which each individual makes his or her contribution responsibly, at every level of the local, national and global community.” PM 2020

Are we ready to make this journey:

To go further, to move on, to make a step forward?

To be involved? To be committed together?

Peace, as a journey of **hope**

Hope at the heart of Pope Francis' World Day of Peace Messages

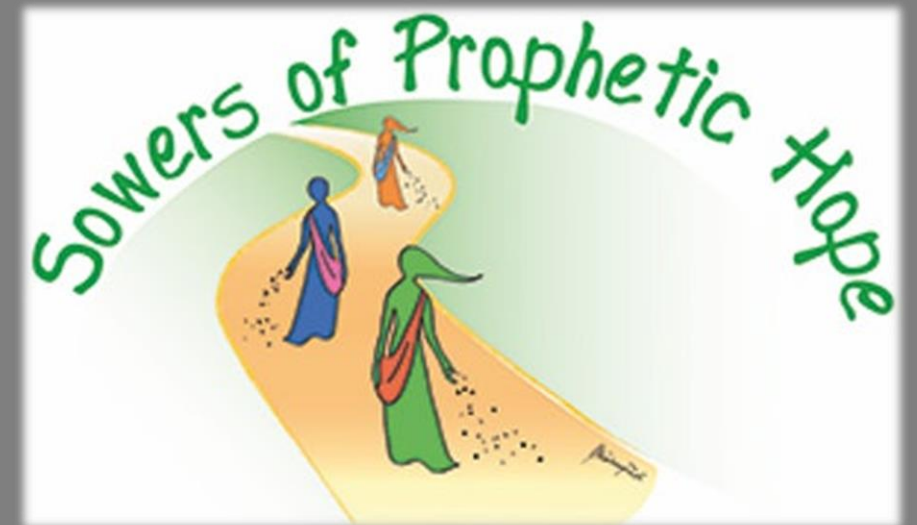
Common theme running through all of Pope Francis' World Day of Peace messages, it is **Christian hope**.

Pope's messages always end up focusing on **the face of Jesus, as the source of our hope** and inspiration for peaceful coexistence.



Hope at the heart of Pope Francis teaching and living witness

- ✓ Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of **hope**! Yes to the new relationships brought by Christ. **EG 86**
- ✓ Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness and our **hope-filled commitment**. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigour! **EG 109**
- ✓ Christ, risen and glorified, is the **wellspring of our hope**, and he will not deprive us of the help we need to carry out the mission which he has entrusted to us. **EG 265**
- ✓ May we never remain on the side-lines of this march of **living hope**! **EG 278**
- ✓ May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the **joy of our hope**. **LS 244**
- ✓ **Hope is thus the virtue** that inspires us and keeps us moving forward, even when obstacles seem insurmountable **PM 2020**



1. Peace, a journey of hope in the face of obstacles and trial

Increase of social inequalities
Hegemonic ambitions **Violence** **Abuses of power**
War **Seeing diversity as an obstacle** **Fear of others**
Divisions within a society **Mistrust**
Inability to accept the diversity of others **Corruption**
Exploitation **Internal and international conflicts**
Threat of total annihilation

Every war is a form of fratricide that destroys
the human family's innate vocation to brotherhood.

Questions that need to be asked:

- ✓ How, then, do we undertake a journey of peace and mutual respect?
- ✓ How do we break the unhealthy mentality of threats and fear?
- ✓ How do we break the current dynamic of distrust?

We need to pursue **a genuine fraternity based on our common origin from God** and exercised in dialogue and mutual trust. The desire for peace lies deep within the human heart, and we should not resign ourselves to seeking anything less than this.

2. Peace, a journey of listening based on **memory**, solidarity and fraternity

“We cannot allow present and future generations to lose the **memory** of what happened here. It is a **memory** that ensures and encourages the building of a **more fair and fraternal future**”

Pope Francis, Hiroshima Peace Memorial, 24 November 2019

Like the Hibakusha (*survivors of the atomic bombs*), many people in today's world are working to ensure that future generations will **preserve the memory** of past events,

- in order to prevent the same errors or illusions from recurring,
- to **enable memory**, as the fruit of experience, to serve as the basis and inspiration for present and future decisions to promote peace.

Am I sensitive to people's memories:

**In the country
where I come from?**

**In the country where
I'm appointed
for missionary life?**

VICTIMS of WARS

World War II

CASTELFRANCO VENETO

**AI SUOI CADUTI NEI CAMPI DI PRIGIONIA E
NELLA GUERRA DI LIBERAZIONE 1943 1945**

SOLD. ALESSIO ANGELO	SOLD. GUIDOLIN GUERRINO
SOLD. ALESSIO OLINDO	SOLD. GUIDOLIN ORFEO
SOLD. BAGGIO TIZIANO	PART. PASQUALETTO ROMEO
PART. BALLAN BONAVENTURA	SOLD. PASTRELLO LUIGI
PART. BERGAMIN MAURIZIO	SOLD. PEGORIN LINO
PART. BIANCO ALDO	SOLD. PELLANDA GUERRINO
PART. BOBBATO ANGELO	DEP.CIV. PEROZZO LUIGI
SOLD. CAMPAGNARO GIUSEPPE	SOLD. QUARELLO CESARE
SOLD. CATTAPAN ANGELO	PART. RIZZO VINCENZO
SOLD. COMACCHIO AUGUSTO	PATR. SCATEMBURLO GIUSEPPE
SOLD. COPPE SANTO	SOLD. SIMEONI ANGELO
PART. DARIO ALESSANDRO	SOLD. TREVISAN ERMINIO
PATR. DIDONE GINO	PART. VENEZZE PIER FRANCES
SOLD. FAVARO ARTURO	SOLD. ZANON ANGELO
SOLD. FERELLO GIUSEPPE	SOLD. ZANON TULLIO
SOLD. FRACCARO LUIGI	PART. ZARDINI SALVATORE
PATR. GRAZIOTTO ORLANDO	SOLD. ZILIO LADINO
SOLD. GRITTI MARIO	

Same suffering in France, Germany, Russia,

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY



Monument "all potential targets"
dedicated to the victims of Nazism and
racism, and more generally, to all
persecuted minorities of the world.
Piazzale Ostiense - Roma

**Remembrance of the
victims of Holocaust:
'Stumbling stones'**



Memory is the horizon of hope.

Many times, in the darkness of wars and conflicts, the remembrance of even a small gesture of solidarity received can lead to courageous and even heroic decisions. It can unleash new energies and kindle new hope in individuals and communities.



St. Louis Hospital in Jerusalem

For geriatric care, oncology/ hospice and palliative care patients

The world does not need empty words
but convinced witnesses,
peacemakers who are open to a dialogue
that rejects exclusion or manipulation.

Listening to one another can lead to
mutual understanding and esteem, and even to
seeing in an enemy the face of a brother or sister.

3. Peace, a journey of **reconciliation** in **fraternal communion**

The Bible, especially in the words of the Prophets, reminds individuals and peoples of God's covenant with humanity, which entails renouncing our desire to dominate others and **learning to see one another as persons, sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters.**

Path of RESPECT

Only by choosing the path of respect can we break the spiral of vengeance and set out on the journey of hope.

Path of RECONCILIATION

When we learn to live in forgiveness, we grow in our capacity to become men and women of peace.

4. Peace, a journey of **ecological conversion**

Faced with the consequences of our hostility towards others, our lack of respect for our common home or our abusive exploitation of natural resources – seen only as a source of immediate profit, regardless of local communities, the common good and nature itself – we are in **need of an ecological conversion.**



This journey of reconciliation also calls for **listening and contemplation of the world** that God has given us as a gift to make our common home.

We need to change the way we think and see things, and to become more open to encountering others and accepting the gift of creation, which reflects the beauty and wisdom of its Creator.

A new way to dwell in our common home, to accept our differences, to respect and celebrate the life that we have received and share, and to seek living conditions and models of society that favour the continued flourishing of life and the development of the common good of the entire human family.

A new way of looking at life, as we consider the generosity of the Creator who has given us the earth and called us to a share it in joy and moderation. This conversion must be understood in an integral way, as a transformation of **how we relate to our sisters and brothers**, to other living beings, to creation in all its rich variety and to the Creator who is the origin and source of all life.



SIGNS OF HOPE



Artists for sea protection



Do you treat
your mother
like that?

Campaign of awareness raising



Civil society in action



Tickets for empty plastic bottles
St Giovanni Metro station

5. “We obtain all that we hope for”

The journey of reconciliation calls for patience and trust. Peace will not be obtained unless it is hoped for.

This means believing in the possibility of peace, believing that others need peace just as much as we do. Here we can find inspiration in the **love that God has for each of us**: a love that is liberating, limitless, gratuitous and tireless.

The **grace of God our Father** is bestowed as **unconditional love**. Having received his **forgiveness in Christ**, we can set out to offer that peace to the men and women of our time.

Day by day, the **Holy Spirit** prompts in us ways of thinking and speaking that can make us artisans of justice and peace.

The **culture of fraternal encounter** shatters the culture of conflict. It makes of **every encounter a possibility and a gift of God's generous love**. It leads us beyond the limits of our narrow horizons and constantly encourages us to a **live in a spirit of universal fraternity, as children of the one heavenly Father**.

Concrete efforts of building universal fraternity:

- Encounter in Abu Dhabi between Pope Francis and Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar Dr. Ahmed At-Tayyeb, 4th of February 2019: they signed the document "Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together"
- Apostolic journey of Pope Francis, "Servant of Hope", to Morocco, 30-31 march 2019

Meaning of words?

Fraternity

Brotherhood

Fraternity

Sorority

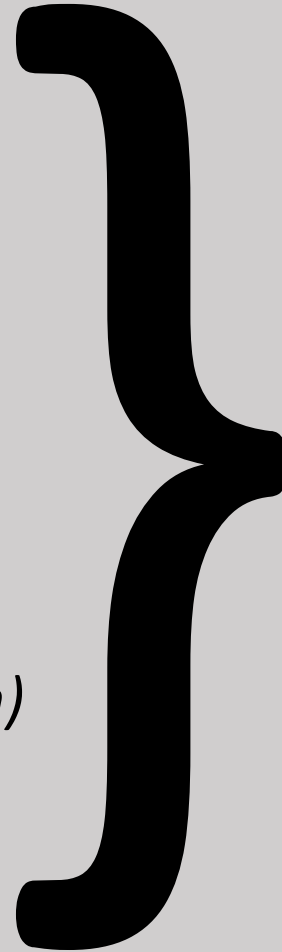
Brotherhood

Sisterhood

Siblings

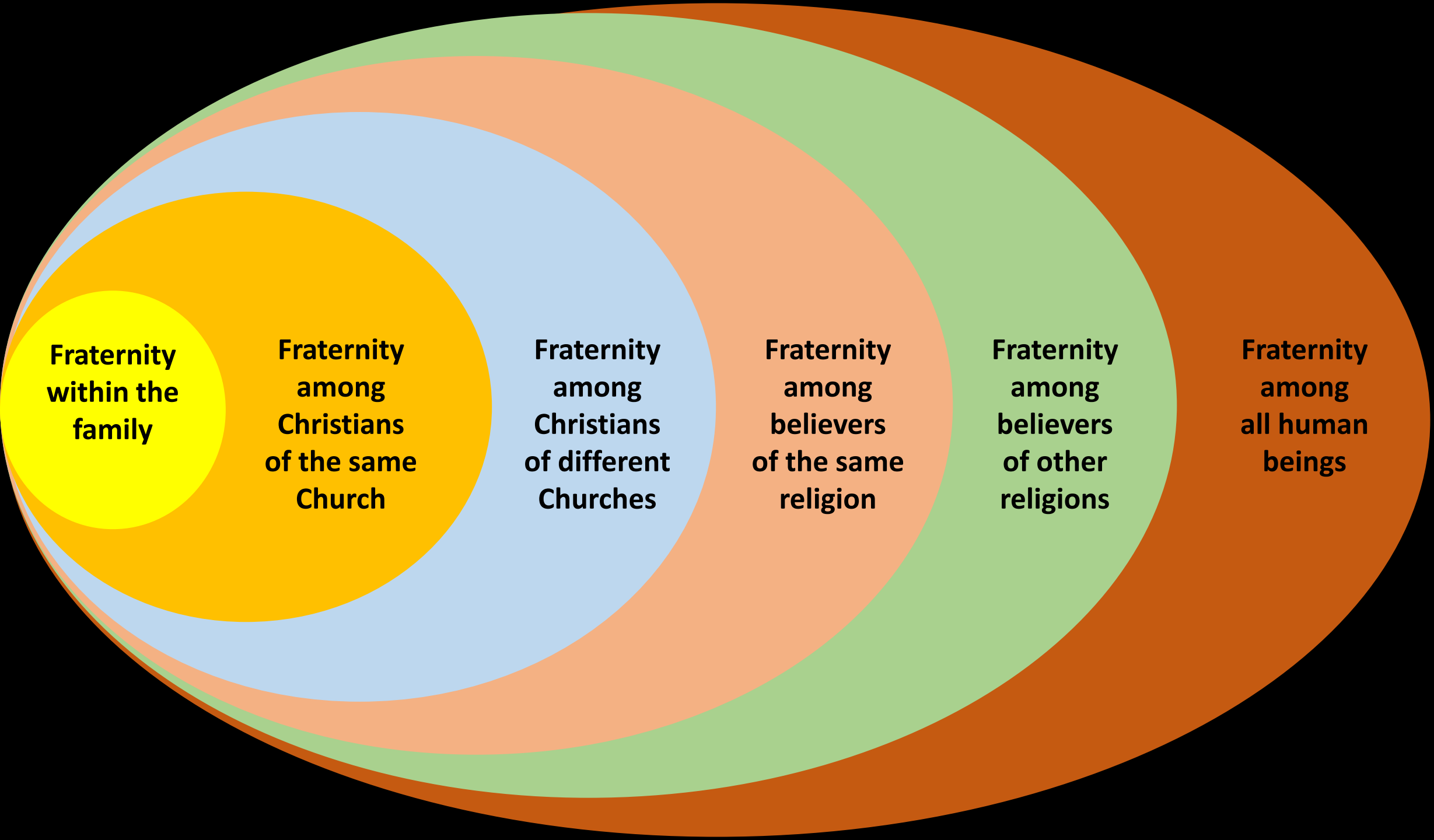
“Geschwisterlichkeit” *(in German)*

In your own language?



It's about to see one another as persons, sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters.





**Fraternity
within the
family**

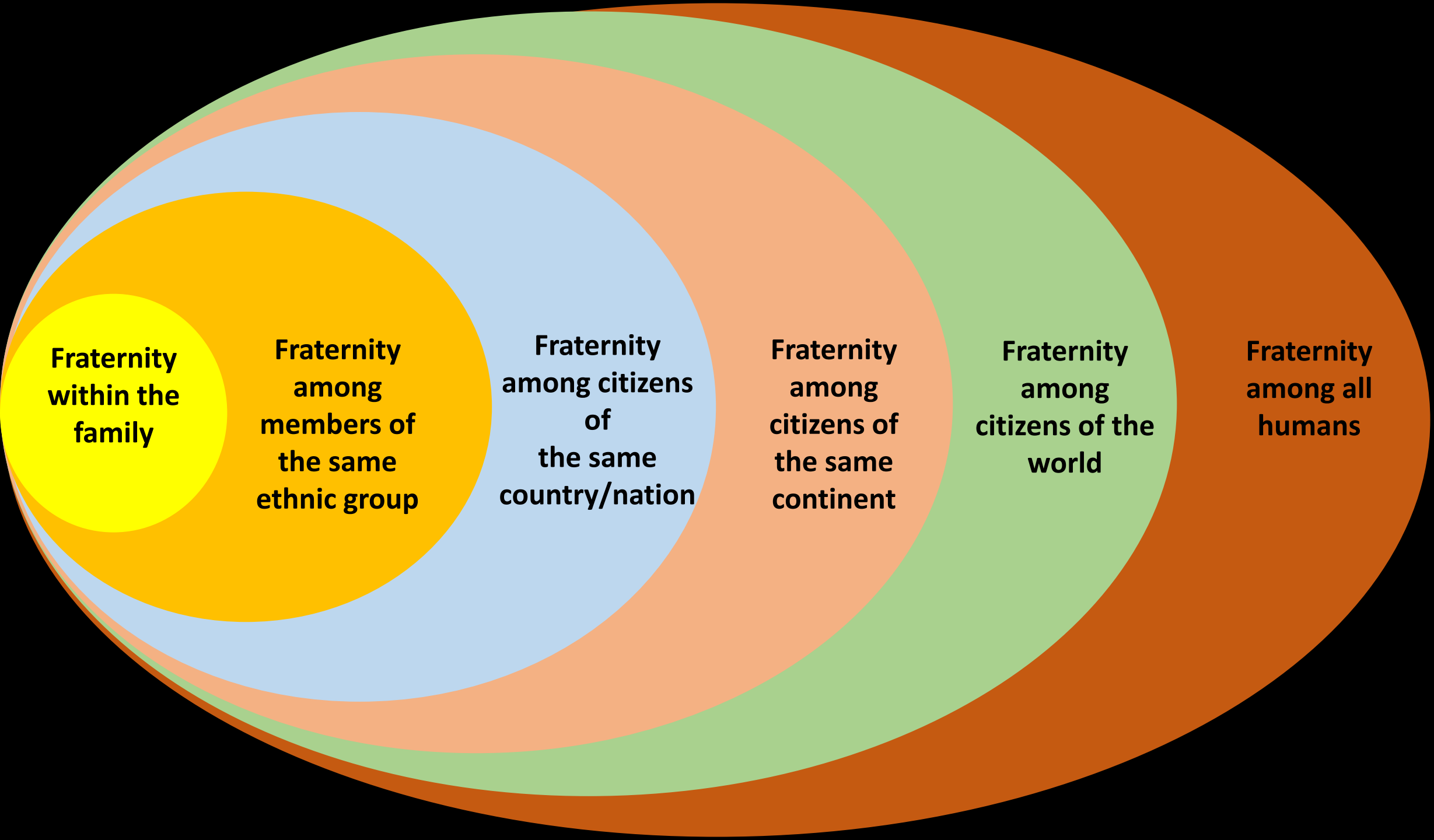
**Fraternity
among
Christians
of the same
Church**

**Fraternity
among
Christians
of different
Churches**

**Fraternity
among
believers
of the same
religion**

**Fraternity
among
believers
of other
religions**

**Fraternity
among
all human
beings**



How do we face the challenge of expanding:

- **the circles of fraternity and solidarity?**
- **the circles of being sisters and brothers?**

**Do I recognise the other, different from me,
as brother or sister?**

**The other,
without making any exception!**

How can we, as JPIC promoters, encourage and foster the universal fraternity and solidarity?

- ✓ **Among our members?**
- ✓ **Within communities?**
- ✓ **Within Catholic Church?**
- ✓ **Within the society where we live?**

**May the God of peace bless us
and come to our aid.**

**May Mary, Mother of the
Prince of Peace and Mother of
all the peoples of the earth,
accompany and sustain us at
every step of our journey of
reconciliation.**

**And may all men and women
who come into this world
experience a life of peace and
develop fully the promise of life
and love dwelling in their heart.**

PEACE

PEACE

Rome, 14 January 2020
Andreas Göpfert
JPIC-ED coordination
Missionaries of Africa