

## For your consideration this Lent February 22, 2021

Inspired by the newest encyclical by Pope Francis "Fratelli Tutti" On fraternity and social friendship, the core team of Sensus Fidelium searched for a way to incorporate the tenants of the encyclical into our Lenten practice. The Vatican writers offer this summary that helps us focus our efforts: God is universal love, and as long as we are part of that love and share in it, we are called to universal fraternity, which is openness to all. There are no "others," no "them," there is only "us". We want, with God and in God, an open world (Ch. 3), a world without walls, without borders, without people rejected, without strangers. To achieve this world, we must have an open heart (Ch. 4). We need to experience social friendship, seek what is morally good, and practice a social ethic because we know we are part of a universal fraternity. We are called to solidarity, encounter, and gratuitousness.

To create an open world with an open heart, it is necessary to engage in politics, and a better kind of politics (Ch. 5) is essential. Politics for the common and universal good. Politics that is "popular" because it is for and with the people. It is politics with social charity that seeks human dignity. The politics of men and women who practice political love by integrating the economy with the social and cultural fabric into a consistent and life-giving human project. <https://www.usccb.org/resources/fratelli-tutti-overviewsummary>

We felt that one way to act out the call to help build this new global friendship we need to look at our own individual practices that might help us be more intentional in our way of living, to help us enter into new and more just relationships with the earth and our neighbors. The Sensus Fidelium Core Members would like to offer these suggestions of Zero Waste /Buy Nothing/ Anti Plastic Movements for your Lenten attention. While we do not endorse any of these organizations we have had some positive personal experiences and encourage you to make your own internet searches to expand your worldview of consumerism versus ecology and best practices for creating a just and peaceful coexistence worldwide.

Some of the movements we have experienced and their internet and Facebook contacts are as follows:

### 1.) The Buy Nothing Project

An international network of diverse, inclusive, and equitable local gift economies in which people learn to trust in abundance and our shared desire to help each other through sharing. It is not an organization, a non-profit, a company, or any kind of legal entity. The goals are to build community by strengthening relationships with neighbors; keep things out of the landfills; decrease the culture of consumerism and to nurture gratefulness for what we already have. Their only rule is to give freely and be kind.

There are other 'freecycle' and minimalists groups you might search as well.

<https://buynothingproject.org/2020/12/22/a-brief-history-of-the-buy-nothing-project-completewith-controversies>

<https://www.facebook.com/BuyNothingProject/>

2.) Zero Waste Products Store - <https://www.recycling.com/zero-waste-store/#>

Kickstart Your Zero Waste Lifestyle Your Resource for Plastic-Free Alternatives & Low Waste Products Reusable items and waste-free products: Reusable water bottle, Reusable grocery bag, Bamboo toothbrush, Reusable lighter, Reusable food containers

3.) Tru Earth Laundry Strips - [www.facebook.com/TruEarthMovement](http://www.facebook.com/TruEarthMovement)  
<https://www.tru.earth>

Tru Earth Eco-Strips laundry detergents have a dramatically smaller eco-footprint than liquid and powder detergents. Laundry Detergent that cares about our planet - 94% less transportation pollution. We care about the future of the world we live in. Tru Earth's packaging uses zero plastic, and its light weight reduces transportation fuel consumption and global warming carbon emissions by 94% compared to today's leading-brand liquid and powder detergent.