



Reflection for Easter and Beyond

(thanks to Mary Ann Dooling, osu)

For many, this Lent has been a year (plus) long. The forced distancing and social isolation have served as a desert experience. It has been long and draining, but also an opportunity to reflect on the challenges that face our world both locally and globally. We knew racism, immigration economic inequality, criminal justice and environmental issues were fraught with danger and pain. The pandemic has laid bare these issues and others.



“Build Back Better” is a catch phrase these days. But we must not just “build back” – we are called to Build Forward Anew. We must not re-build the same way, but rather look to putting solutions in place that will build a community of solidarity. And we cannot build from the top down, rather it is vital that we engage with those who have felt the pain of the oppressions that are present in our world.

Pope Francis shared in Fratelli Tutti:

“For all our hyper-connectivity, we witnessed a fragmentation that made it more difficult to resolve problems that affect us all. Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the

need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality. (no. 7)

“True, a worldwide tragedy like the Covid-19 pandemic momentarily revived the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person’s problems are the problems of all. Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together” (no. 32)

If we are to be saved together, we need to hope big, think big and act big – locally, nationally and globally. It is important that we address questions of poverty, access to education, health care and employment here. It is also important that we demand that we, as part of the global community, bring the good news to all. That is a tall order.



But then, Easter is about the triumph of life over death.

Life is not the same for those who were there with Jesus, ever again – so may it be for us. Alleluia!