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60th Anniversary of *Pacem in Terris*

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Sixty years ago, in April 1963, Pope John XXIII wrote the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* to address a world deeply engaged in the Cold War. The Berlin Wall had been built, and the Cuban Missile Crisis frightened millions as nuclear weapons began to proliferate. The significant issues of *Pacem in Terris* are the relationships among human beings, between citizens and public authorities, between states, and among the people and states in the international community. It presents rights and duties in all of these areas. *Pacem in Terris* paved the way for the strong commitment of the Catholic Church and faith-based organizations in the promotion of human rights, justice, peace-building, and peaceful resolution of conflicts. It was also for SSNDs a foundational document for the establishment of the *Shalom* Network and for our continued work to build a Culture of Peace *"founded on truth, built up on justice, nurtured and animated by charity, and brought into effect under the auspices of freedom." (Pacem in Terris 167)*



As we read *Pacem in Terris*, it is so realistic, and we hear its bell sound calling for peace in our wounded world. We can see the connections between the cry for peace in *Pacem in Terris* and the last two encyclicals. The 2015 encyclical from Pope Francis', *Laudato Si',* on caring for our common home, planet earth, is addressed to *"every person living on this planet" (LS 3) and* calls for a global dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet through our daily attitudes, actions, and decisions. The 2020 Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* on Fraternity and Social Friendship is addressed ***"to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives."*** *(FT 1)* We could ask ourselves how do we see *Pacem in Terris* actualized in our world reality? How could I relate *Pacem in Terris* to *Laudato Si' and Fratelli Tutti*? In what ways are they similar and complementary? How have they inspired the SSND mission? How do they encourage us in our journey to be prophetic witnesses to universal communion?

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