

## Everyone: He broke down the wall

The story - when I decided not to work with another student organization on campus, I felt really bad - I had an "Us and Them" mentality. I vowed never to apply that attitude in my life again. As an organization, we started to actively help other student organizations.

"Fratelli Tutti and the new age of walls": "one of the typical features of modernity is (along with increased mobility) separation, which is increasingly achieved through physical barriers (Trump's wall, the wall in Matiční - separating excluded locations from family homes).

## Why are we doing this? Where does this mentality come from?

### Insecurity in self-worth

- I have a need to compare myself, to be better.
- I have a need for validation from another (even by having the same opinion) and I don't get it, I condemn them

### Fear of otherness

- we are afraid of what we don't know - that's how our brain works

It's not news - biblical characters and stories: the Samaritan woman at the well - society did not accept her, the prodigal son and the son who stayed - he had value in being "better", so the Father's treatment of the returning son seemed unfair to him, the behavior of the Pharisees - who could and could not enter the temple, be saved, the division between clean and unclean

Dualism - division into two polarities

yin-yang, black and white, good and bad, us and them, inside and outside

How to think differently?

Inwardly we long for harmony, unity, trust, acceptance. That is what Christ brings. He shatters dualism.

**Eph. 2:14-18** *14 For he is our peace, who has made the two into one, and by whom the middle wall of division has been broken down, 15 Having in his flesh put an end to that which made the division between us, even the law with its rules and orders, so that he might make in himself, of the two, one new man, so making peace; 16 And that the two might come into agreement with God in one body through the cross, so putting an end to that division. 17 And he came preaching peace to you who were far off, and to those who were near; 18 Because through him the two of us are able to come near in one Spirit to the Father.*

"they will know us by our love"?!

**John 13:34,35** *34 I give you a new law: Have love one for another; even as I have had love for you, so are you to have love one for another. 35 By this it will be clear to all men that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.*

**Matthew 22:39:** *And a second like it is this, Have love for your neighbor as for yourself.*

John Powell: Love must begin with the self, but it must not end with the self.

Richard Rohr:

"Love is of one piece. How you love anything is how you love everything. ...it is the same Source and the same Love that allows each of us to love ourself, others, and God at the same time! ... **How you love is how you have accessed Love.**"

All people are brothers and sisters - building your identity + realizing universal siblinghood (not mutually exclusive!)

Unconditional love gives us full identity and banishes all fear.

Let's let it do that in our lives.