

Marian Lecture Online 2022 – Reflection Questions

“If we are committed to human dignity as an Aussie value we have to be prepared to have the difficult discussions, and we have to be able to see things through the eyes of those who are most on the margins.”

-Fr Frank Brennan SJ

1. Fr. Frank spoke of the question mark surrounding the issue of human dignity as an Aussie value amidst the many realities for young people today. He said today’s young people are “the first generation since the Second World War who don’t have the promise that life will be materially better for them than it was for their parents and their grandparents.”

How do you offer hope to the young people you encounter in your place or ministry?

2. Fr Frank said as a Catholic community we should look to Pope Francis and his encyclical *Laudato Si* that offers us four principles to guide our reflection.
 - *Each of us must accept a personal responsibility for the state of the planet;*
 - *Each of us must have an eye for those living on the margins of society;*
 - *Each of us must always consider the common good above self-interest;*
 - *We need to pay attention to our own sense of interior wellbeing and peace.*

How do these principles guide and support you?

3. In speaking about the challenges we face, Fr Frank quoted paragraph n.65 of *Laudato Si*: “Those who are committed to defending human dignity can find in the Christian faith the deepest reasons for this commitment. How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles!”

In light of this quote, how does your faith invite a response to follow the Gospel call to those on the margins?

4. In addressing the complex issue of Temporary Protection Visas for refugees and asylum seekers, Fr Frank posed the question, “How do we hold together the need for secure borders and an ordered migration problem while at the same time extending the welcome to those who are seeking asylum?”

What response is this question asking of you?

5. In speaking of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, Fr Frank said, “If you want to be serious about human dignity for all you have to respect the rights, the aspirations, the perspectives of your First Peoples.”

How do you help bring dignity and voice to the First Peoples of this land?