

POPE FRANCIS
ANGELUS
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[...] At this point, Jesus turns to the lawyer and asks him: "Which of these three — the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan — do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell victim to the robbers?". And the lawyer, of course — because he was intelligent —, said in reply: "The one who had compassion on him" (vv. 36-37). In this way, Jesus completely overturned the lawyer's initial perspective — as well as our own! —: I must not categorize others in order to decide who is my neighbour and who is not. It is up to me whether to be a neighbour or not — the decision is mine — it is up to me whether or not to be a neighbour to those whom I encounter who need help, even if they are strangers or perhaps hostile. And Jesus concludes, saying: "Go and do likewise" (v. 37). What a great lesson! And he repeats it to each of us: "Go and do likewise", be a neighbour to the brother or sister whom you see in trouble. "Go and do likewise". Do good works, don't just say words that are gone with the wind. A song comes to mind: "Words, words, words". No. Works, works. And through the good works that we carry out with love and joy towards others, our faith emerges and bears fruit. Let us ask ourselves — each of us responding in his own heart — let us ask ourselves: Is our faith fruitful? Does our faith produce good works? Or is it sterile instead, and therefore more dead than alive? Do I act as a neighbour or simply pass by? Am I one of those who selects people according to my own liking? It is good to ask ourselves these questions, and to ask them often, because in the end we will be judged on the works of mercy. The Lord will say to us: Do you remember that time on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho? That man who was half dead was me. Do you remember? That hungry child was me. Do you remember? That immigrant who many wanted to drive away, that was me. That grandparent who was alone, abandoned in nursing homes, that was me. That sick man, alone in the hospital, who no one visited, that was me. [...]