



YOUNG INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF CENTESIMUS ANNUS PRO PONTIFICE



CAPP's Young International Network Walks along River Tiber with Laudato Si' Community

On Sunday 4 June 2023, the Young International Network (YIN) – a group of young CAPP members – met in Rome, for an inspirational meet-up the day before the international conference. The group was welcomed by volunteers from the Roman Laudato Si' II Community for a pleasant and reflective two-and-a-half-hour walk along the banks of the River Tiber.



Exploring the role of the Tiber for Rome

The walk took place along the main central area of the city, starting from the Trastevere district, to the Prati district, crossing the Tiber Island and the Jewish Ghetto. While walking along the River Tiber, the YIN group was guided not just along the natural and historical beauty of the city, but through lively narratives and anecdotes of the Laudato Si' Community volunteers, highlighting the social, architectural, economic, and spiritual meaning of the River Tiber for Rome and its people over time.

The Laudato Si' Community is a local association dedicated to spreading the vision on integral ecology as contained in Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si'. The Community does this through charity work, educational actions and artistic offerings.



During the walk, YIN members were initially guided to observe the historical and urban context of the river: from the ancient history of the Trastevere neighbourhood and its palaces, to the bridges built between one bank of the river and the other, each dating to a different era. It showed the importance of the River for people over time. These days it is a place to for sports, a quite area for reading, but also for festivity, for some a place of great tragedies, an intersection, and for some people their home.

A Laudato Si' perspective on the River Tiber

Through the historical and even mythical narration of the legends that for centuries have concerned the river itself and what lies within it – such as the Tiber Island – the YIN group was gradually urged to adopt a new approach to observing external reality of the importance of the river up to today.

The lenses used by the Laudato Si' Community volunteers to guide the young CAPP group were undoubtedly those of Pope Francis' integral ecology: observing the world and its phenomena as inseparably interconnected with the work of man.

A world to value the beauty of creation as the work of the loving generosity of its creator toward mankind, reminding mankind that the care and custody of creation is not only his responsibility. In fact, it is first and foremost what he needs to restore for the dignity of humanity itself: caring for and guarding creation and loving his brothers and sisters, which is what man was created to do and what makes him therefore naturally happy.