



PRESS RELEASE

The Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation pays tribute to Pope Francis with a gathering focused on overcoming polarizations and fostering economic and social dialogue

The return of Pope Francis to the House of the Father leaves the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation in great and heartfelt mourning. Upon hearing the news, the entire Foundation immediately gathered in prayer to honor the memory of the Holy Father.

The “Pro-Pontifice” Foundation has had a special relationship with Pope Francis, being at his direct service for the dissemination of the Social Doctrine of the Church. To this end, the Foundation promotes the contribution of the business, financial and academic world, civil society, young people and people of good will who have at heart the principles and values of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

The Foundation's community with its 35 chapters spread throughout the world shares in the unanimous mourning for the passing away of the Pontiff and is preparing to commemorate him and to valorize his spiritual and intellectual legacy during its Annual Conference to be held from 15th to 17th May. The event will be dedicated to the ethical foundations of global governance and to overcoming the growing polarizations that today threaten the economy, society and international relations. This is a theme that was at the heart of the thoughts and actions of Pope Francis who, since the time of his studies in Frankfurt in the 1980s, focused on the response to polarizations and on the mission of the Church in favor of unity and universal brotherhood. As a scholar, together with Pope Ratzinger (Benedict XVI), of the philosopher-theologian Romano Guardini, Pope Francis has inspired his pastoral and ecclesial action on these themes, making dialogue, encounter and overcoming conflicts the central point of the Social Doctrine of the Church and of the evangelizing mission in favor of the weakest.

The meeting next May will represent for the Foundation a fond memory of Pope Francis and a concrete commitment to continue along the path set out by his most innovative and far-sighted initiatives. It will therefore address the issues of responsible leadership and economic and social cooperation; the relaunch of multilateralism, economic and financial integration at the continental level and between continents, and the debt recovery of vulnerable countries; finally, the focus on the new "Theology from the Mediterranean" and its implications for the Social Doctrine of the Church, interreligious dialogue and peace in the world. Pope Francis leaves us as a legacy the Hope of the Jubilee, thanks to the many processes of reform and dialogue which he initiated. It is now up to us to honor his memory by committing ourselves to carry them forward and to make them bear fruit.