



Private Audience with the Holy Father - October 23, 2021

Welcome Address to the Holy Father by Chairwoman Anna Maria Tarantola

Your Holiness,

it is a great joy to be finally able to meet you in person after more than two dreadful years in which we have all experienced the fears, anxieties, and uncertainties caused by a terrible pandemic that has brought about much pain and changed the economic and social conditions of many.

I thank you from the deep of my heart on behalf of all the members of *the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation*.

In the years 2020-2021 we have continued to deepen the operational implications of *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli tutti*, focusing on the study and support of the implementation of a new model of development inspired by integral ecology: human, environmental, economic and social.

It has been a challenging period in which we have been able to continue our work via IT tools. Your Holiness, the Note, that I allow myself to submit to Your attention, reports the main initiatives we carried out.

All our actions have been and are guided by Your Magisterium and by the consideration of:

- **the unsustainability** of the present model of development that creates marginalization (the widespread and serious problem of those excluded), poverty, inequalities, irreversible damage to the environment.
- **the urgency** to change the model in order to build a new sustainable and inclusive world guided by the spirit of brotherhood and social friendship.

In our activities we have focused on:

1. Knowing and evaluating what is happening in the economic, social and educational sectors, thanks also to the testimonies given by personalities who told us about their personal journey towards sustainability, the strategic and operational changes introduced, the problems encountered, the results achieved and the questions that remain still open. Some interesting movements emerged: the growing adoption of ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) criteria, especially by large companies; the birth of organizations inspired by the circular economy and of Benefit Corporations whose statutory objective is to create

value for all stakeholders and protect the environment, looking at work in a wider perspective and not merely reducing company costs. An important issue that has emerged is the need to adopt new, suitable standards that measure and evaluate results looking both at the quantity and quality of growth at business and national level.

2. Further assessing the impact of the pandemic and the lessons learned. The pandemic has made it clear that without solidarity, cooperation-at all levels, between states, institutions, public and private - and the exercise of responsibility, it is not possible to effectively address the complex problems raised by a global health, economic, social and environmental crisis. For this reason, the IC 2021, held yesterday, dealt with how these three values, which are not abstract but concrete principles, can have a positive impact on various activities of our lives by reducing inequalities, injustices and exclusions. We dedicated an **ad-hoc session to young** people to hear their direct testimony on how they see their future, what they expect as well as what they are willing to do.

We have prepared a **brief summary** of what emerged from the work of these two days that I would like to submit to your attention, Your Holiness.

3. Take action to support change in the direction you have indicated. There is the need for a **broader movement** that helps individuals and individual communities to understand that the actions necessary to overcome and better manage the changes also require their full and wholehearted support to pursuing a more just, solidarity-based, inclusive, sustainable and environmentally friendly world. Everyone must believe in this. And everyone must work in harmony to achieve this goal.

We firmly believe that the Foundation must increasingly become a center for listening to and promoting initiatives aiming at the adoption of new styles of consumption, production and investment. To do this, we must implement innovative projects inspired by subsidiarity, collaboration and partnership.

Holy Father, you have constantly invited us to return to the source of the Gospel, to spirituality, to commitment to those "excluded," to understand the sacredness of creation and to put love into action; to operate by faith in Christ, as citizens, entrepreneurs, professionals, academics, and institutional workers.

Let us try to live up to this invitation and to operate always bearing in mind that we are a "Pro Pontifice" Foundation, and therefore acting in full harmony with Your Magisterium, for You and with You, Holy Father.

This meeting, Your Holiness, supports and encourages us in our journey; we will listen attentively to your message, which will serve us as lesson and incentive.

Thank you again on behalf of the entire Foundation for this opportunity.

Anna Maria Tarantola