



MEETING after “The Economy of Francesco”

Friday 12 February 2021

7 p.m. (Italy Malta Spain) 3 p.m. (Argentina)

Initial greeting

Rafael Corso - IFCA Secretariat Coordinator

Dear young people, I feel the great joy of being able to greet you on this occasion of your first meeting after the great Meeting on the Economy of Francis in Assisi.

The International Forum of Catholic Action aims to be a space for communion, promotion, discernment and close accompaniment in our mission and in this case through the Youth Coordination, an active and proactive evangelizer facing this theme that challenges humanity in the present moment and which finds in young people the strength capable of an enthusiastic and profound regeneration, committed to realizing the civilization of Love, making all things new from Jesus Christ, Lord of History.

Pope Francis addressed you last November on the opportunity to be brothers and sisters, good Samaritans capable of taking on the suffering of failures instead of fomenting hatred or resentment. An unpredictable future is in the making and everyone can do a lot from where they are, becoming yeast in their daily reality, without fear of getting their hands dirty.

Once the crisis is over, it would be tragic to fall into a new consumerist fervor and selfish self-protection.

We will not come out of this health crisis the same way, either we will come out better or we will come out worse. Let us cultivate what is good, let us put ourselves at the service of the common good and may Heaven allow us to mature a new style of life in which we know how to say and build "we".

In the letter of February 19 from the Holy Father to the President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Francis asked this question: “How could it happen that, at the very moment of history when available economic and technological resources make it possible

for us to care suitably for our common home and our human family, in obedience to God's command, those same economic and technological resources are creating our most bitter divisions and our worst nightmares?" and he replies " People sense acutely and painfully, albeit often confusedly, the spiritual dejection".

Then he talks about the anesthetization of hedonistic enjoyment, consumerism, closure, ... the renunciation of the deepest dreams and the disinterest in the beauty of shared life and the habitability of the common home.

He asks us: "It is urgent to have greater confidence in our best "dreams" and that the young have "visions" able to sustain them to act boldly in history. At the level of culture, our goal must be a new and universal ethical perspective attentive to the themes of creation and human life."

We must recognize that fraternity remains the unfulfilled promise of modernity.

Wishing you a good day of work and prayer, which will see the warm and fraternal presence of Mons. Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop of Assisi, I confirm that we are at your service, attentive to your needs and eager to walk together this beautiful and demanding journey to provide for the regeneration of a more just and fraternal economic order that overcomes the wounds of ecological unsustainability and distributive inequity. The challenge is important and urgent, the pandemic is an expression of the new imbalances in our ecosystem and one of the many manifestations that threaten and damage life.

We need a new paradigm of integral development, at the service of the whole man and of all men and women without distinction. This requires an ecological conversion that re-establishes fraternity with all creation, an embodied and contemplative spirituality as St. Francis presents it so well in his Canticle of the Creatures.

Friends, let us re-establish ties, generate trust, establish cooperative models in the decision-making process, promote the circular economy, distributive equity, full employment, regular employment, social enterprises, fiscal justice, ..Let us overcome sterile confrontation, let us oppose the new slavery and the throwaway culture. We are instruments at the service of fraternity, social friendship and the common good; servants of the Kingdom of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace.

We invoke Saint Joseph and the Most Holy Mary to inspire and protect our work.

May the Lord strengthen us in joy and in our mission. We ask this through our blessed friends, saints and patrons who preceded us and illuminate the path of our life.

Thanks Luisa, thanks Michele, thanks Maria Luz, thanks to all those who are making this meeting possible, Maria Grazia, Codruta, the IFCA secretariat. Thanks to each of you, exhibitors and participants, for renewing today this commitment with the "Economy of Francesco", which unites us in solidarity in the urgent mission of serving a more just and fraternal world.

Thanks Msgr. Domenico for bringing us the spirit of the Poverello of Assisi to transform our lives and live the joy of the Gospel of Jesus in his Church and in society.

Dear young people, let us cry out by our life that Christ lives and gives us life!

A huge hug and have a good meeting!

Praised be Jesus Christ!