



**THE POPE TO YOUNG PEOPLE: THE ASSISI PACT, IT'S TIME TO DARE. START NEW PROCESSES WITH THE POOR AND MARGINALISED, DON'T BE CRUSHED BY HISTORY.**

**THE HOLY FATHER'S VIDEO MESSAGE FOR THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO**

ASSISI (PG), NOVEMBER 21st - «Thank you for being there, for all the work you have done, for the commitment of these months, despite the change of plans. You have not been discouraged, on the contrary...». Thus began the video message that Pope Francesco sent to the young participants of The Economy of Francesco. A pact that the Holy Father wanted to virtually sign in Assisi for a new, human-friendly economy.

**HERE ARE SOME EXTRACTS FROM HIS MESSAGE**

«The severity of the current situation, which the Covid pandemic has made even more evident, requires a responsible awareness of all the social actors, of all of us, among whom you have a primary role: the consequences of our actions and decisions will affect you firsthand, therefore you cannot stay out of the places where it is generated, I am not talking about your future, but your present. You cannot stay out of where the present and the future are generated. Either you are involved or the story will pass over you».

«Heaven grants that in the end there are no longer “the others”, but that we learn to mature a lifestyle in which we know how to say “we”. But a big "we", not a little "we", and then there are "the other", no. This is not right».

«It is time for them to become protagonists of their life as well as of the entire social fabric. Let's not think for them, let's think with them. Remember the legacy of the Enlightenment, of the enlightened elites. All for the people, nothing with the people. And this is not right. Let's not think for them, let's think with them. And from them we learn how to advance economic models that will benefit everyone... ».

«It is time, dear young economists, entrepreneurs, workers and business executives, it is time to take the risk of encouraging and stimulating models of development, progress and sustainability in which people, and especially the excluded (and among them also sister earth), cease to be - at best - a purely nominal, technical or functional presence to become protagonists of their life as well as of the entire social fabric».

«If it is urgent to find answers, it is essential to grow and support leading groups capable of developing culture, starting processes - do not forget this word: starting processes - tracing paths, broadening horizons, creating belonging...».

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## **DECLARATIONS COMMITTEE THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO**

«Thanks to all the staff with whom we began this adventure, for helping Pope Francesco with this dream. When we met the Holy Father, he told us: 'I can't wait to meet young people, do something for them, especially with regard to the economy'. Thanks to everyone, especially the young people, we are impressed from behind the scenes. These days were something unexpected, a great surprise. We were moved by looking at what you are doing», said Luigino Bruni, Scientific Director of The Economy of Francesco.

«We feel you close even if behind the screen, The Economy of Francesco is a solid and lively community, and we do not want to waste this wealth. We in the Scientific Committee want to keep this network alive, which has three layers. The regional Hubs, where you can act and be protagonists, the Village you have created, the Village Hubs, an opportunity to continue working on specific issues, and then the Worldwide Hub. In these three days we have seen how rich it is and we will do our best to meet you all, in person, in Assisi. Until then one thing is already clear to us: we have never been leaders of Francesco's economy, you are the leaders of this process and we are here to support you», said Sister Alessandra Smerilli, Scientific Committee The Economy of Francesco.

«Hundreds of thousands of young people have connected with Assisi from all over the world for an economic pact that looks at the future, and it is already a revolution. Students, economists and entrepreneurs met from over 115 countries and discussed - said the director of the information structure, Father Enzo Fortunato - about what the economy of tomorrow will be, which will not be for the last, but with the last ».

The organization was entrusted to an Organizing Committee composed of: the Diocese of Assisi, the Seraphic Institute, the Municipality of Assisi, the Economy of Communion, and with the support, on behalf of the Holy See, of the Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development, which sponsors the initiative and the Franciscan Families.

Multimedia material, program, information and complete speeches are available at this link: <https://goo.gl/kkt14Q>