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Borgo Dialogues in the United States: leaders from different sectors called to shape the future with courage and responsibility

Global leadership platform convenes leaders across sectors to place human dignity and the common good at the center of innovation, investment and leadership

NEW YORK - As leaders confront accelerating advances in artificial intelligence, workforce transformation, geopolitical uncertainty, a widening trust deficit and growing challenges to human dignity, the **Borgo Dialogues** will make its U.S. debut on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) from September 20-23. This is the second convening of global leaders who continue to advance work begun in June on how courageous leadership can address the defining challenges of our time.

Rooted in Catholic social teachings of leadership in service to the common good, the invitation-only Borgo Dialogues convenes global leaders from business, finance, academia, faith, healthcare, sports, civil society and international institutions. The Dialogues are founded on a simple premise: today's most pressing challenges cannot be solved by governments alone. Business leaders, innovators, investors, educators, faith leaders and civil society institutions all have a critical role to play in shaping solutions that strengthen human dignity, rebuild social trust, and promote long-term human flourishing.

At the heart of the Dialogues is a guiding question: *What are we building, for whom, and who will inherit it?* Participants are challenged to examine how decisions around technology, investment, healthcare, governance and leadership will shape the lives of future generations.

The Borgo Dialogues operate as an ongoing global community of practice. Through trusted, off-the-record case-based dialogue, participants engage as peers, building uncommon relationships and confronting pathways for collective action, rather than representatives advancing institutional positions. The objective is the development of practical solutions and blueprints that translate dialogue into meaningful action. These blueprints will be announced at the upcoming World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"The Borgo Dialogues represent an invitation to courageous leadership rooted in listening, encounter and shared responsibility," said **His Eminence Cardinal Fabio Baggio**, Director General of the Laudato Si' Center for Higher Education and founder of Borgo Dialogues. "At a moment when many institutions face growing fragmentation and distrust, we need spaces where leaders can engage difficult questions honestly, build trust across differences and commit themselves to actions that uphold human dignity and advance the common good."

Programming throughout the week will include leadership roundtables, private dinners, strategic discussions, and a signature Borgo Dialogues reception. Discussions will focus on several workstreams: artificial intelligence and workforce transformation, healthcare and human dignity, sustainable development, systems-level change across industries, and the evolving responsibilities of leaders navigating an increasingly interconnected world.

"Many of today's defining challenges transcend sectors, borders and institutions," said **JR Kerr**, CEO of Handshake Strategies, co-architect of the Borgo Dialogues and Member of Sustainability Committee of Laudato Si' Center for Higher Education. "The private sector has tremendous capacity to shape outcomes through innovation, investment, talent and influence. The question is whether those capabilities will be guided by a broader sense of responsibility and exercised with the moral authority that comes from

advancing business objectives and the common good. The defining leadership challenge of our time is not whether change will occur, but whether leaders will have the courage to shape that change in ways that responsibly protect human dignity and create opportunity for future generations.”

The U.S. convening builds on the inaugural Borgo Dialogues held June 17-19, 2026, at Borgo Laudato Si’ in the Pontifical Gardens of Castel Gandolfo, Vatican State. More than 80 global leaders participated in case-based discussions in AI & Humanity, Aging & Dignity, Sports & Diplomacy, and Courageous Leadership, exploring how institutions can better serve both present and future generations. The gathering inspired a number of strategic initiatives led by participants focused on: Artificial intelligence for the Common Good, Healthcare and Dignity, Courageous Leadership and Heroism Through Sport. The gathering concluded with a private audience with Pope Leo XIV, who described the Dialogues as “a first step in the process” of renewing and reimagining moral leadership in a fragmented world.

“The world’s most urgent challenges require relationships that rise above institutions and ideologies” said **Rev. Daniel G. Groody, C.S.C.**, Vice President and Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education at the University of Notre Dame and Member of the General Council of Laudato Si’ Center for Higher Education. “The Borgo Dialogues create a distinctive environment where intellectual rigor, moral purpose and practical leadership come together, helping diverse leaders transform reflection into responsibility and ideas into action.”

Emerging from the inaugural convening was a shared commitment to designing technologies, institutions and systems that recognize the inherent dignity of every person while remaining attentive to the most vulnerable. The Dialogues seek to foster leadership grounded in trust, responsibility, stewardship and a commitment to evaluating decisions not only by their immediate impact, but by their long-term contribution to society.

The Borgo Dialogues are convened by the Laudato Si’ Center for Higher Education and developed in collaboration with Handshake Strategies as co-architect and principal operating partner, the University of Notre Dame serving as academic partner and Deloitte Switzerland as management consulting partner. Together, the organizations are building a global platform designed to foster trusted relationships, ongoing leadership formation and collaborative action among leaders committed to responsible innovation and human-centered progress.

The U.S. debut marks a significant milestone in the evolution of the Borgo Dialogues, aimed at strengthening a growing international community dedicated to courageous leadership. Future flagship convenings are planned in 2027 during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and the annual Borgo Dialogues gathering at Borgo Laudato Si’ in the Pontifical Gardens of Castel Gandolfo (Vatican State).

About the Borgo Dialogues

The Borgo Dialogues is a global leadership platform that convenes leaders from business, technology, finance, healthcare, academia, faith, sport, civil society and international institutions to address the defining challenges of our time and help build frameworks capable of safeguarding human dignity, advancing the common good, and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. Inspired by the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si’*, *Fratelli Tutti* and *Magnifica Humanitas*, the Borgo Dialogues provide a trusted forum for candid dialogue, moral reflection, and cross-sector collaboration aimed at advancing courageous leadership and responsible innovation. Convened by the Laudato Si’ Center for Higher Education, the Borgo Dialogues bring together diverse perspectives to foster meaningful relationships, practical action, and long-term collaboration that address social, technical, environmental and economic challenges. Grounded in the belief that leadership is exercised in service of others, the Dialogues encourage decision-making that advances human flourishing, protects the most vulnerable, and promotes the common good. The Borgo Dialogues are developed in collaboration with Handshake Strategies, the University of Notre Dame and Deloitte Switzerland.

For more information, visit www.borgodialogues.com.

THE LAUDATO SI' CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Is a scientific, educational and social-action body established by Pope Francis through a Chirograph dated 2 February 2023. Inspired by the principles of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, it promotes the integral formation of the human person through educational and dialogue-based programs addressed to a wide range of audiences, bringing together care for creation, the dignity of the human person and faith. The Center has been entrusted with the development and implementation of the Borgo Laudato si' project in the Papal Gardens of Castel Gandolfo, where these principles are translated into concrete experience.

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