

**Presentation of the Document:
“Mental Health and Pastoral Accompaniment
in Humanitarian Contexts”**

Care and Hope in a Spirit of Fraternity

Tuesday, 13 October 2026, 3:00–4:30 p.m.

Van Thuan Hall, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

The event will be held in hybrid format.

During the Study Day, promoted by the Catholic University of Portugal (UCP) and the Scalabrini International Migration Institute (SIMI), in collaboration with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, **the document “Mental Health and Pastoral Accompaniment in the Context of Humanitarian Crises. Care and Hope in a Spirit of Fraternity” will be presented and made public.**

The Document

In countries experiencing humanitarian crises, the issue of mental health is emerging with growing urgency, because extreme social conditions have a profound impact on the well-being of individuals and communities. **To accompany the Church in these situations, since 2024 the Dicastery has promoted a listening process** through consultations with Catholic organizations, congregations and international experts, gathering the experience of those who work daily on the ground. The contributions were analyzed by a group of experts, under the patronage of UCP and SIMI, and were incorporated into the document.

Publication

The document will be available **from 13 October at 4:30 p.m.**, in five languages (Italian, English, Spanish, French and Portuguese) on the Dicastery’s website:

<https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/2026/mental-health-pastoral-accompaniment-humanitarian-crises.html>

Accredited journalists are receiving a PDF attachment.

Themes of the Study Day

- The relationship between pastoral care and mental health;
- The possibilities for implementing the document in pastoral accompaniment;
- The tools to be developed in support of pastoral workers.

Scheduled Speakers

- **Prof. Peter Hanenberg**, Vice-Rector of the Catholic University of Portugal
- **Msgr. Jozef Barlaš**, Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
- **Archbishop Joseph Tobji**, Maronite Bishop of Aleppo (Syria)
- **Dr. Márcio Gagliato**, Global Mental Health and Humanitarian Specialist, with a brief presentation of the document

Reflections offered by:

- **Fr. Aldo Skoda, C.S.**, Scalabrini International Migration Institute – Pontifical Urbaniana University: mental health and pastoral care
- **Pascale Debbane**, official of the Dicastery: contexts of humanitarian crisis
- **Joseph Kelly**, CR4E (Catholic Response for Emergencies): collaboration among Catholic organizations

Languages **and online connection**

The event will be held in English and Italian. Online participation is available via Zoom, with simultaneous interpretation in Italian, Spanish and English:

<https://spc-va.zoom.us/j/86228288879?pwd=IG9R7VS1QYeppoY7vjnqP7vHKYkts.1>