

Vatican City



PRESS RELEASE

Ceremony for the Presentation of the International Award “Economy and Society”

Friday, 24 October 2025, 10:00 - 12:15

Istituto Maria Bambina – John Paul II Hall

Via Paolo VI, No. 21, Rome

The ceremony marking the seventh edition of the International “Economy and Society” Award offers an opportunity for reflection on Christian social thought and its contribution to building a more just, equitable, and compassionate society. Established twelve years ago, the biennial award seeks to recognize works distinguished by their original contribution to the study and practical application of the Church’s Social Doctrine, characterized by sound theological and doctrinal grounding and accessibility to a wider public.

The event brings together leading figures from the ecclesiastical, academic, and cultural worlds, providing a forum for dialogue and exchange. The awardees’ testimonies and speakers’ contributions will enrich ongoing reflection on the ethical challenges of our time.

The **winner of this seventh edition is Fr. Paolo Benanti** for his essay *“Human in the Loop. Decisioni umane e intelligenze artificiali”* (Mondadori). Artificial intelligence now permeates every aspect of daily life, and as Fr. Benanti writes on his website (www.paolobenanti.com) devoted to ethics, bioethics, and technology: “I seek to clarify the ethical and anthropological meaning of technology for Homo sapiens: we are a species that has inhabited and transformed the world for 70,000 years - the human condition is a techno-human condition”.

In addition to the main award, **two research fellowships** will also be presented to **Enrico Frosio**, Ph.D. at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, for his research on rethinking the present in light of the legacy of Benedictine monasticism and to **Fr. Raman Susha**, Ph.D. at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas – Angelicum in Rome, for his work on designing meaning in the digital age: mythodesign as a challenge for contemporary missiology.

Programme

10:00 a.m. - Welcome remarks and opening introduction by Professor **Paolo Garonna**, President of the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation.

10:10 a.m. - His Eminence Cardinal Reinhard Marx, Archbishop of Munich and Freising and President of the International Award Jury, will deliver the Laudatio on the award-winning work and the research fellowships.

10:25 – 10:45 a.m. - Award Presentation Ceremony. Book Award, Fr. Paolo Benanti, theologian and philosopher of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis. Research Fellowships: Enrico Frosio (Ph.D.) and Fr. Raman Susha (Ph.D.) for their research on Christian social and economic thought.

10:45 a.m. - Responses from the Awardees, offering academic reflections and words of gratitude.

11:30 – 12:15 p.m. – Discussants providing further insights into the role of Christian thought in contemporary society.

Discussants:

- **Lawrence Chong**, Consultant to the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue and CEO of the Consulus Group, Singapore

- **Fr. Pierre Januard O.P.**, Vice-Dean, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas – Angelicum, Rome

- **Silke Schmitt**, Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation for Italy and the Vatican

The meeting will be **moderated** by **Deborah Castellano Lubov**, Vatican News

The **ceremony will conclude** at **12:15 p.m.** with the **closing address** by His Eminence Cardinal **Pietro Parolin**, Secretary of State of His Holiness (**participation to be confirmed**).

- **Accreditation procedure:** Journalists and media operators who wish to participate, on 16 May, must apply, no less than 24 hours before the event, through the Holy See Press Office online Accreditation System available at: press.vatican.va/accreditamenti.

- ❖ Our **sincere thanks** go to the official sponsors of the initiative:

- the **Istituto Atesino di Sviluppo - ISA** for the International Award “Economy and Society”,
- the **BCC-Iccrea Group** for the scholarship awarded as part of the International Prize “Economy and Society”.

Their invaluable support has been of fundamental importance for the success of this internationally focused event dedicated to promoting dialogue and mutual understanding.

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