

Saturday 15 May – presentation of the international award
'Francis of Assisi and Carlo Acutis,' conferred on the Seraphic Institute:
participating are Minister Stefani, Cucinelli, Smerilli, Di Maolo and Sala.
Sunday 16 May – Eucharistic celebration with Cardinal Cantalamessa

ASSISI PROMOTES THE ECONOMY OF FRATERNITY

Archbishop Sorrentino: "After 'Fratelli tutti' and following the 'Economy of Francis,' we are giving an impulse to fraternal economic initiatives that begin from below"

ASSISI – - From the Sanctuary of the Renunciation in Assisi, four years after its inauguration, a further impulse for an economy of solidarity and fraternity is being launched with the institution of the international award "Francis of Assisi and Carlo Acutis, for an economy of fraternity," announced on the occasion of the Beatification last October. The award, created to promote a renewal of the economy in the name of fraternity, starting from the condition and interests of the most humble and disadvantaged, in the inaugural ceremony, to be held on Saturday 15 May, will be awarded to the Seraphic Institute of Assisi, marking the 150th anniversary of its foundation. "It was May 1, 2019 – explains the bishop of Assisi, Monsignor Domenico Sorrentino – when Pope Francis addressed a message to young economists, *change makers* and economic entrepreneurs from all over the world, inviting them to a gathering in our Assisi and asking for a specific reflection to be sealed with a 'pact' for the renewal of the economy. He had repeatedly denounced an economy that kills. Now he was asking the new generations to initiate a change. With the signing of the Encyclical '*Fratelli tutti*' ('Brothers all') on the tomb of the *Poverello* (the 'Poor One') – continues Archbishop Sorrentino – the Holy Father has given a further impetus to this process. As our contribution, within the framework of the activities of the Sanctuary of the Renunciation, the idea of this award took shape, aimed at encouraging those fraternal economic processes 'from below,' in which people with limited economic possibilities, in any

part of the world, but especially in the poorest regions, come together around genuine project ideas, relying above all on the 'capital of fraternity.' This year the award, on an inaugural basis, will be conferred on the Seraphic Institute that emerged from the heart of Saint Ludovico of Casoria. It was born to serve the blind and deaf and dumb, and today it welcomes people with serious and multiple disabilities. A place where love is concretely breathed, and the most advanced technologies are placed at the service of the most disadvantaged. There is no doubt that, from its origins and its development, it has operated in the logic of the economy of fraternity ".

On Saturday, the conferral of the award will be preceded by a moment of online reflection that will begin at 4 pm and will focus on the theme: "An economy of fraternity post-pandemic." The mayor of Assisi, Stefania Proietti, will open the event, which will see the participation of Simona Sala, director of Rai radio 1 and Grr, the entrepreneur Brunello Cucinelli, Sister Alessandra Smerilli, economist and undersecretary of the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development Service for the faith and development sector, and the president of the Seraphic Institute, Francesca Di Maolo. At 5.30 pm, the presentation and conferral of the award will follow with an address by the Bishop and the online conclusions of the Minister for Disabilities, Erika Stefani.

The two days will conclude on Sunday, 16 May at 11 am in the Sanctuary of the Renunciation – Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, where the Eucharistic celebration will be presided by Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, theologian and preacher of the Papal Household.

Saturday's event and the Holy Mass will be broadcast live on Maria Vision (channel 602), on the social channels of the Diocese and Sanctuary of the Renunciation (Facebook and YouTube), on the website

www.diocesiassisi.it (Live diocese) and on that of the Sanctuary (www.assisisantuariodellaspogliazione.it).

Assisi, 7 May '21

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