



World Meeting on
Human Fraternity
#BeHuman

BEING HUMAN TODAY: THE PATH OF FRATERNITY

Cultural horizon of the 2025 *World Meeting on Human Fraternity*

Before being believers, we are called to be human
Pope Leo XIV

The world is suffering. Wars, loneliness, new forms of poverty. Technocracy, financial capitalism, climate change. We ask ourselves: what does it mean to be human today? It is not an easy question—but it's the only one that can save us, *if* we ask it together. Among people of different cultures and traditions, languages and religions, generations and places.

In this context, Antoine de Saint Exupéry's words—«**there is no greater wealth than fraternity**»—from *Terre des hommes* (1939), echo today with renewed force in St. Peter's Square.

Indeed, in the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (2020), we read: «Fraternity is born not only of a climate of respect for individual liberties, or even of a certain administratively guaranteed equality. [...] **Fraternity necessarily calls for something greater, which in turn enhances freedom and equality**» (FT 103).

It is from this premise that the *World Meeting on Human Fraternity* was born. Now in its third edition, it is promoted by St. Peter's Basilica, the *Fratelli tutti* Foundation and the Be Human Association. This journey restores to fraternity its true value: being “relational experience and intelligence” for culture and society, personal choices and public policy.

Fraternity is both a gift and a task. It moves us to reach out to others, even those who seem hostile or foreign—as did the Good Samaritan. As Eloi Leclerc writes in *La Sapienza di un*



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povero, «God is wherever your brothers and sisters are».

Fraternity, the root of humanity that dwells in institutions and marginal communities, schools and businesses, hospitals and sports centres—even across digital networks and artificial intelligence—becomes visible when it generates new forms of social charity, alliances of knowledge and solidarity between generations.

It nurtures the intelligence of communities, capable of guiding change towards what truly matters: dignity and justice, peace and the common good.

This was reaffirmed by Peace Nobel Laureates in the ***Declaration on Human Fraternity*** signed during the first edition of the Meeting:

«We are witnesses of how, in every corner of the world, lost harmony blooms again when dignity is respected, tears are wiped away, work is fairly remunerated, education is guaranteed, health is cared for, diversity is appreciated, nature is restored, justice is honored, and communities face their loneliness and their fears.

Together, we choose to live our relationships based on fraternity, fueled by dialogue and by forgiveness that “does not mean forgetting” (FT, n. 250), but renounces and does not “yield to the same destructive force” (FT, n. 251) whose consequences we all suffer from».

Freedom and equality are not enough without fraternity.

That is why, on September 12, the heart of our Meeting will beat across **15 thematic Round Tables**, addressing: governance and information, economy and finance, health and childhood, food security, education, sport and artificial intelligence, the Third Sector, business and political formation, literature, work, environment and sustainability.

These will be practical experiences—connecting institutions, universities, local authorities, businesses, civic networks and communities—hosted in prestigious venues such as the **Capitol**, the **FAO** headquarters, the **EU** and **ABI** offices, and the **Province of Rome**.

Each Round Table will have a mission: to explore the meaning of being human today, **collect** best practices and **identify** concrete actions to promote in their respective fields. Our objective is to measure the impact of fraternity and assess its effects on ourselves, our society and on our relationships.



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The work will converge in the **Constitutional Human Assembly on September 13** at the Capitol's Hall of the Horatii and Curiatii. There, a **synodal process** will begin to answer the question, "What does it mean to be human today?" — enriched by the contributions of international experts from the different Round Tables.

The goal is to help guide public policies, educational pathways, knowledgeable decisions, and strategic choices to face the complex challenges of our time.

On the evening of September 13, St. Peter's Square will host an international celebration of fraternity featuring artists from around the world. The event will be the culmination of two days of spiritual and cultural initiatives, serving as a multimedia platform to celebrate a great symbolic "human embrace", the power of fraternity, and shared commitment to preserving Creation.

We must look towards the one true horizon: that of humanity nourished by fraternity. Pope Leo XIV reminded peoples and cultures of this on May 18 in his homily at the beginning of his pontificate: «Brothers, sisters, this is the hour of love! Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another».



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