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After the 2019 Assembly dedicated to Roboethics and the 2020 Assembly dedicated to Artificial Intelligence, in 2021 the Pontifical Academy for Life had focused on the theme of Global Health, in a post-pandemic context.

With this 2023 Assembly, the Pontifical Academy for Life has returned to a properly scientific and technological topic. Converging technologies involve biotechnology and molecular life sciences, including systems biology and synthetic biology, but also nanotechnology, information and communication technology.

We have therefore adopted an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspective, with input from the world's leading experts in these fields, in order to consider the positive outlook that is emerging in the fields of health, healthcare, environment, and poverty alleviation.

Thus, we have taken into account the positive contributions to human life and the planet that are coming from converging technologies.

We register some concerns, however. And we have wondered how to address the fears, risks and uncertainties that may emerge from a use of technology to the detriment of human well-being.

In this sense, the need for discernment has emerged, and the need to better define the values and moral principles that have the task of guiding discernment itself and evaluation. I am referring to the value of the person, his or her integrity, solidarity, the value of human life, justice, and the search for the common good.

So governance is needed, which is developed through adequate and up-to-date legislation, but also by providing better information and education in the use of the technologies themselves.

The Church, through the Pontifical Academy for Life, with all the expertise it has (I would like to remind you that there are 160 Academicians, in the Five Continents) accepts these challenges and has opened up a dialogue with the different scientific disciplines, precisely to reflect on how to deal with the new scenario we may face in the years to come.