



Rescuing Fraternity
Together

PRESS RELEASE

Vatican City, June 8 2021 - *Rescuing Fraternity - Together* is a call, written by a group of ten theologians, summoned by Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia and Msgr. Pierangelo Sequeri. It is a call to the Church in all its components, and to the wise, men and women of good will. It is a call for conversation, not simply an analysis that is to be accepted or rejected. It is not a handbook of “blueprints” to which one is asked to adhere, but it is a collection of issues we think need to be reflected on and considered. This call has grown out of the provocation offered by Pope Francis' Encyclical *Fratelli tutti*. What we want to do is capture the deep meaning of this encyclical - which is addressed to a Church that is urged to open up, and to a world that is tempted to close itself off - by creating an atmosphere of “intellectual fraternity” that reinvigorates the noble sense of “intellectual service” that culture professionals—theological and not—owe to the community.

This call «is an impassioned plea to professional theology—and to every believer—to offer a privileged spot and common space to the commitment to deconstruct the twofold dualism that currently holds sway, separating the ecclesial community from the secular community, and separating the created world from the saved world. The Church is not a spiritual aristocracy of the elect, but a welcoming tent that shelters the rainbow of the covenant between God and human creatures. Faith will learn to dwell within the languages of the secular world, without prejudice to its proclamation of God's closeness. And the ecclesial closeness of faith will also welcome the Canaanite woman, the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, and the Centurion. Without worrying about how far away they are».

It is also a call to the Wise. «We propose to reverse the way of thinking in our times. Do not despise the Name of God, to whom the prayers of sincere believers are addressed for all the men and women of the planet, and to whom these same believers make themselves available to intercede for all the poor and abandoned. Criticize us when you must—and even when you should not—but guard respectfully the mystery—even though unfathomable to you—of the Name of God».

As Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia explains in the Afterword closing the call, «ecclesial institutions are called upon to play their part in promoting a deeper and more continuous dialogue between the intelligence of faith and the human dimension. In this renewal, theology and pastoral care converge, as two sides of the same coin. The recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* urges us to imagine the new perspective of this dialogue as the effective and necessary expression of an intellectual fraternity at the service of the entire human community. Theology's urge to rediscover the inter- and multi-disciplinary approach goes in this direction (*Veritatis gaudium*)».

The group who drafted the call at the invitation and under the guidance of Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life and Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, and of Msgr. Pierangelo Sequeri, Dean of the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute, consists of: Kurt Appell, Carlo Casalone SJ, Dario Cornati, João Manuel Duque, Isabella Guanzini, Marcello Neri, Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi, Vincenzo Rosito, Gemma Serrano, Lucia Vantini.

<http://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/it/salvare-fraternita.html>

<http://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/en/salvare-fraternita.html>

Vatican City, June 8, 2021