



Mental Distress in a Changing World: the Pontifical Academy for Life's XXXII General Assembly to Be Held in Rome

On 1–2 March 2027, members of the Pontifical Academy for Life will gather at the Augustinianum Conference Centre for the XXXII General Assembly. An international workshop will examine the growing global challenge of mental distress, exploring its causes and the ethical, cultural and geographical perspectives needed to address it.



The XXXII General Assembly of the members of the Pontifical Academy for Life will take place on 1–2 March 2027 at the Augustinianum Conference Centre in Rome. As part of the Assembly, an international workshop will be dedicated to the theme of mental distress, bringing together experts from different disciplines and cultural backgrounds to reflect on one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

Across the world, available data point to a significant and worrying increase in mental distress, affecting people at every stage of life. From children and adolescents to adults and older persons, the growing prevalence of psychological suffering calls for renewed scientific, ethical and social reflection.

The workshop will explore the principal causes of this phenomenon and examine the different ways in which mental distress is understood and addressed across diverse geographical and cultural contexts. By fostering interdisciplinary and international dialogue, the meeting aims to deepen understanding of the complex factors that contribute to mental health

challenges and to identify paths towards more effective and humane responses.

In a world that is increasingly interconnected, competitive and marked by geopolitical tensions, where interpersonal relationships are becoming ever more complex, the Pontifical Academy for Life considers it both timely and necessary to devote its annual General Assembly to a topic that has become an urgent global priority. The initiative reflects the Academy's commitment to promoting an integral vision of the human person and to encouraging dialogue between the life sciences, ethics, the social sciences and faith in addressing the challenges that affect human dignity today.