



SANT'EGIDIO

# 36th International Meeting for Peace

ROME 23-25 OCTOBER 2022



**A worldwide pilgrimage  
in the spirit of Assisi**



***"Let us continue to spread the spirit of Assisi, let us continue to live the message of peace!"*** said Saint Pope John Paul II in the city of St. Francis on the evening of October 27, 1986, at the conclusion of that first historic Day of Prayer.

Representatives of the Christian Churches and of the great religions were invited by him to Assisi since January of that year, the World Year for Peace called by the United Nations. On the afternoon of that Monday in October - after an Inauguration Assembly held in the morning at Santa Maria degli Angeli - **gathered in prayer in different places, respecting the differences between their religious traditions**, to invoke the gift of peace for the world from the One who alone can grant it.

Then, in a common procession, representatives of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Shintoists, Zoroastrians and indigenous religions made their way to the square in front of the Lower Basilica for the great Final Ceremony of the meeting. great Final Ceremony of the meeting.



Since that year, the **Community of Sant'Egidio** has wanted to repeat in many countries of the world, through an annual stage, wanting to remain faithful to that invitation of Pope Wojtyła

It is a great living icon that, in different colors and languages, has been repainted and reproduced in many European, African, Asian and American cities, including Jerusalem.





**Many religious and political figures have taken part in these meetings over the course of more than thirty years.**

They include Italian Cardinal **Carlo Maria Martini**, Brazilian Bishop **Helder Camara**, Polish President **Lech Walesa**, European Commission President **Romano Prodi**, Madame **Danielle Mitterand**, Orthodox theologian **Olivier Clément**, United Nations refugee chair **Filippo Grandi**, Anglican Primate **Justin Welby**, Polish historian **Bronislaw Geremek**, Jordanian Prince **El Hassan Bin-Talal**, Israel's Chief Rabbi Israel **Meir Lau**, United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali, Italian President **Sergio Mattarella**, Soviet President **Mikhail Gorbachev**, Russian Orthodox Patriarch **Kirill**, French President **Nicolas Sarkozy**, French intellectual **Jean Daniel**, American economist **Jeffrey Sachs**, German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**, Ecumenical Patriarch **Bartholomew I**, Grand Imam of al-Azhar **el-Tayyeb**, German Cardinal **Reinhard Marx**, Pope **Benedict XVI**, sociologist **Zygmund Bauman**, Martin Luther King's daughter **Bernice A. King**, Pope **Francis**, and many others.

# Rome, the capital of Peace





**The last stage** of this pilgrimage of men and women of religion, which has crossed the world in the last 35 years, **stopped in Rome the 6th and 7th October 2021.**

Rome has thus become the "capital of peace" with the international meeting "Peoples as Brothers - Future Earth" promoted by the Community of Sant'Egidio in the "spirit of Assisi", after the historic day desired by John Paul II in 1986.

The event brought together the world's great religions together with authoritative representatives of institutions. In a difficult moment of history, because of the pandemic but also because of old and new wars, from the heart of Europe a solemn moment of reflection, prayer and meeting has offered: **a message of hope for the future in the name of the greatest good, which is that of Peace.**



## The Closing Ceremony

After the prayers of the different religions in different places **the religious leaders gathered together at the beautiful setting of the Colosseum for the closing ceremony.**

The founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio, Andrea Riccardi, and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Angela Merkel, spoke. Then the speeches of leaders and representatives of religions: the Grand Imam of Al Ahzar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb; the President of the European Rabbis Conference, Pinchas Goldschmidt and, in conclusion, Pope Francis.

This was followed by a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the pandemic and all wars, and the reading of the 2021 Peace Appeal, which was delivered by a group of children to the ambassadors and representatives of national politics.

Only a limited number of people were able to attend the event in attendance due to the anti-Covid measures in place, but it was possible to follow the meeting via streaming, from around the world, in Italian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Japanese.



## Among the speakers at our meetings



*Rome and Italy are proud to be today at the crossroads of dialogue and peace.*

**SERGIO MATTARELLA** · ROME 2020



*Dialogue between different religions is possible. But it is also necessary. Because agreement, the willingness to listen to the other and to see the world through the eyes of the other, this is necessary to build the understanding that is essential for fruitful living together on earth.*

**ANGELA MERKEL** · ROME 2021



## Among the speakers at our meetings



*We need more than anything else to develop difficult qualities in this world: patience, consistency, planning long-term planning. I'm talking about a real cultural revolution.*

**ZYGMUNT BAUMAN** · ASSISI 2016



*We are not irrevocably doomed to the destruction of creation, but we must use the resources and technologies we possess to counter global warming and restore power to the instruments of international policy.*

**JEFFREY SACHS** · ASSISI 2016



## Among the speakers at our meetings



// *It is therefore very beneficial that the community of St Egidio has initiated this gathering here in Rome, rising to the biblical call of: “am I my brother’s keeper” calling out to the responsibility each one of us has for the other*



**PINCHAS GOLDSCHMIDT**, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN RABBIS · ROME 2021

// *Humanity can resume its role as custodian and steward of creation. There is no more room for fundamentalism, social and economic injustice, hedonism, selfishness, eagerness to dominate, and all of creation will once again participate in the global good.*

**BARTOLOMEO I**, ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE · ROME 2020



## Among the speakers at our meetings



*We cannot remain indifferent. Today the world has a burning thirst for peace. In many countries people are suffering because of wars, often forgotten, which are always the cause of suffering and poverty.*

**POPE FRANCIS** · ROME 2021



*Today, the time has come for us to adopt a new globalization, based on human brotherhood, which promotes the equality of all human beings in terms of rights and duties, that roots social coexistence and is committed to respect for the specificity and of religious and cultural identities, which stops the arms race.*

**GRAND IMAM AHMAD AL-TAYYEB**, SHEYKH OF AL-AZHAR · ROME 2020



## Among the speakers at our meetings



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*I firmly believe that violence and wars arise from the behavior of human beings. Therefore, just as man is at the origin of wars, so he can also be at the origin of peace. I am also firmly convinced that dialogue is a path that opens our hearts and makes us take a step to the hearts of others.*

**SHOTEN MINEGISHI**, BUDDHIST MONK SOTO ZEN · ROME 2020

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*The world is thirsting for true words that will illuminate the future, which is so uncertain. In many countries, it is a grave moment in which we cannot remain silent. We must give voice and solidarity to those who have been suffering for too long. Not being saved alone opens the way to shared visions and a dream about humanity.*

**PROF ANDREA RICCARDI** · ROME 2020



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**Rome 2022**



After the extraordinary experience of the International Meeting for Peace in Rome last October the Community of Sant'Egidio, supported and encouraged by the presence of the Holy Father Pope Francis, is promoting the next **International Meeting for Peace in Rome on 23-25 October 2022.**

The initiative will be attended by leaders of the Christian Churches and the world religions, together with high representatives of international politics and culture.

The Meeting will take place over three days:

- 23 October, **Opening Ceremony**
- 24 October, **Thematic Forums**
- 25 October, **Closing Ceremony**



# To support the event

Comunità di S.Egidio ACAP onlus

**IBAN** IT16C 02008 05008 000400272521

**BIC/SWIFT** UNCRITM1B88

**CAUSALE** Contributo Pace Roma 2022



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