



FONDAZIONE CENTESIMUS ANNUS  
PRO PONTIFICE

Branch of BERGAMO

## **The economy of Francesco: training itinerary for young changemakers.**

After these terrible months which we have known this year, we believe this experience should not be wasted: it should become a sort of heritage to take into account.

Our world, our local Church, our community, created the agenda. We have accepted the invitation of our bishop to '*serve life where life happens*'. In the wake of the social doctrine of the Church, we have started to read, to interpret reality, to take care of problems, to seize the opportunities, to give answers.

People, families, have discovered the value of community dimension, of the centrality of the person, meanwhile civil community has found the value of service.

After this experience, restart means to build a new model, to '*give the reason for the hope that is in us*' (according to 1 Pt. 3,15-16).

We have matured idea to develop and consolidate a culture of *mutual obligations*, of *new and original obligations*.

*New mutual obligations*, because health emergency has triggered an economic and social emergency: everybody has verified how the system is fragile. *Original mutual obligations* because built on the central role of the

individual. Challenge is to construct or better to refound community without damage the individual.

We have taken into account the prayer of Thomas More: '**Lord, give me the ability to accept what I cannot change and let me change what I can change**'.

We asked ourselves: what can we change? And for whom?

**What can we change?** We have decided to promote change in several different dimension of human life: enterprise, work, education, policy in the civil community, lifestyles.

**For whom?** We have decided to help young people. Reason of this option for young people is straightforward: young people will be asked to build and grant the future of families, of society, and ultimately the Church itself.

We have designed with other components of the ecclesial community of Bergamo program:

**Say yes,**

where yes is an acronym for **youngs for economy and society**.

An itinerary of reflection, of training, of development, which we have delivered with the help of experts and witnesses, not only in view of next coming convention promoted by Pope Francis in Assisi but also to promote a tangible engagement at local level.

These are issues addressed: **Enterprise and work; Work and social development, The world of cooperatives, School and education, European and International policy, New economies, Building of the civil community, New lifestyles.**

For each of abovementioned issue, we are going to summarize from now on the most interesting contributions among all we have registered in

groups, followed by an average of 45 young people ( average of participants has been between 25/27 years).

***Enterprise and work.*** Pandemic highlighted the fragility of the local economic system. Despite positive performances achieved in the past ( province of Bergamo is one of the most industrialized areas of North Italy), effects of the crisis have been devastating.

It is urgent to promote up-skilling and re-skilling policies to update the background of workers, to avoid obsolescence and marginalization of workers, to develop new competencies, to cover mismatch with needs of the enterprise. It has been outlined importance to make system and recover the role of intermediate bodies like unions, entrepreneurs organizations.

***Work and social development.*** Develop employability of people, transform training in occasion to develop workers and enterprises, combine the quality of work with the quality of life, make the system, launch a sort of Enterprises 'Erasmus to share competencies and best practices. Facilitate the transition from a linear system (*school-work*) to a circular system (*school-work-school*).

***The world of cooperatives.*** Rediscover positivity of the model to make it attractive and not marginal. Rethink economic sustainability to encourage ongoing initiatives and build a model that values people. Seize emerging opportunities in the financial market like: social bond, social impact bond, crowdfunding, social venture capital. These agile tools are more flexible than the traditional offer of banks.

***School and education.*** Rethink traditional organization and programs to develop the osmosis process with the world of enterprises and work. Support families in their role in the direction of children in the choice of school address. Develop quality of communication to make the work of local businesses more attractive. Re-invent alternative school-work formula.

**European and International policy.** Knowing current trends (strong north/south of world imbalance, growing inequalities, neo-colonialism, populism) implies a commitment, at personal as well as at an intermediate level, to avoid the risk of a discouraged and rancorous society. Our age is the age of duty, discover the duty to build future for young generations.

**New economies.** Economic trends are not inevitable; virtuous behaviour must be developed in everyday life. It is essential to develop a circular economy in enterprises as well in families. Rediscover noble role of enterprise generating economic and social improvements (benefits companies). Learn to manage instead to suffer web, to develop significant opportunities to share ideas and tangible aids.

**The building of the civil community.** After the terrible experience of pandemic, there is a growing demand of new civil model far from the imaginary democracy of the web ( where one is worth one), able to respond to the needs and priorities of the community. Recognize rights but also duties. Civil community as a place of compensation and balance. Rediscover the importance of participation.

**New lifestyles.** It is premature to identify which new lifestyles will prevail nevertheless it is essential to discern opportunities but also threats (depersonalization and isolation) developed during lockdown ( e.i with remote working ) in work, in the organizations, in the life of the relationship. All efforts would be finalized to reduce inequalities, to avoid to marginalize people weak, people with disabilities, older people.

This itinerary , which we have described , has been completed at the beginning of this month and it is perceived as a sort of starting point.

We have matured the will not limit ourselves to the analyses but educate to discernment, to foster the full maturation of civil and democratic consciousness, to train citizens for the common good through courageous and tangible choices. The right policy is a synthesis between subsidiarity and solidarity in the concreteness of social life.

As the first action, we have decided to promote on October 17th a conference on: ***'Sustainability, responsibility, social impact: the challenges of companies in the Third Millennium after the pandemic'***.

After this initiative, as section of Bergamo of FCAPP, we are going to define, in conjunction with other components of ecclesial reality, a new program for 2021 to : ***serve life where life happens.***