

'Here Begins a New Life'

(Dante Alighieri)

2025
PROGRAM

February 14–16, 2025 | METROPOLITAN PAVILION | 125 West 18th Street, NYC | www.newyorkencounter.org

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

6:30 PM ET
IN-PERSON
+ONLINE

"Forever building, and always decaying, and always being restored." (T.S. Eliot)

The Encounter opens with a presentation by **Philippe Villeneuve**, Chief Architect of the Reconstruction of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, introduced by **Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley**, Archbishop Emeritus of Boston

PAVILION
AUDITORIUM

9:00 PM ET
IN-PERSON
+ONLINE

A Life Rich in Music

Piano concert in memory of Fr. Luigi Giussani, accompanied by his reflections on music, with **Kuok-Wai Lio**, classical pianist, and **Deniz Demirer**, actor, introduced by **Pier Paolo Bellini**, Professor of Sociology, University of Molise and the curator of the *Spirto Gentil* music series, and **Christopher Vath**, musician

PAVILION
AUDITORIUM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:30 AM ET
IN-PERSON
+ONLINE

A Fragment of Being

A discussion on the corporeal dimension of human identity in an age of virtual reality, with **Christine Rosen**, Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, and **Carter Snead**, Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame, moderated by **Paolo Carozza**, Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame

PAVILION
AUDITORIUM

10:45 AM ET
IN-PERSON
ONLY

EXHIBIT PRESENTATION

The Miracle of Beginning

Presentation of the exhibit on Hannah Arendt with **Roger Berkowitz**, Academic Director, Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and the Humanities, Bard College, and **Carlo Lancellotti**, curator

ALTMAN
AUDITORIUM

11:30 AM ET
IN-PERSON
+ONLINE

A Feeling of Precariousness

A conversation on loneliness and malaise in today's society with **Robert Putnam**, Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University, and **Sherry Turkle**, Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, moderated by **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, Professor of Sociology, The Catholic University of America

PAVILION
AUDITORIUM

12:45 PM ET
IN-PERSON
ONLY

EXHIBIT PRESENTATION

The Mondragon Experience: A More Human Way to Work

Presentation of the exhibit with **William Cavanaugh**, Professor of Catholic Studies, DePaul University, and **Christina Clamp**, Professor of Sociology, Southern New Hampshire University, moderated by **Patrick Tomassi**, curator

ALTMAN
AUDITORIUM

2:00 PM ET
IN-PERSON
+ONLINE

Why Have Children?

A conversation on demographic decline with **Nicholas Eberstadt**, Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy, American Enterprise Institute and **Brad Wilcox**, Professor of Sociology, University of Virginia, moderated by **Margarita Mooney Clayton**, Associate Professor of Congregational Studies, Princeton Theological Seminar

PAVILION
AUDITORIUM

3:15 PM ET
IN-PERSON
ONLY

EXHIBIT PRESENTATION

"The past [is] all made up"

Presentation of the exhibit on memory and disconnection in the HBO series *Succession* with **Sophia Sorensen**, curator

ALTMAN
AUDITORIUM

4:00 PM ET
IN-PERSON
+ONLINE

No Longer Just a Promise

A conversation on *In Search of the Human Face* by Fr. Luigi Giussani, with **John Milbank**, President of the Centre of Theology and Philosophy, The University of Nottingham and **Aaron Riches**, Professor of Theology, Benedictine College

PAVILION
AUDITORIUM

5:15 PM ET
IN-PERSON
ONLY

EXHIBIT PRESENTATION

A New Beginning in America

Presentation on the Vietnamese-American experience 50 years after the fall of Saigon with **Thomas Tobin**, curator

ALTMAN
AUDITORIUM

6:00 PM ET IN-PERSON +ONLINE	All That Is Needed Is Attention Marveling at nature in scientific research with Martin Nowak , Professor of Mathematics and Biology, Harvard University, and Rob Phillips , Professor of Biophysics, Biology, and Physics, California Institute of Technology, moderated by Evelyn Tang , Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Rice University	PAVILION AUDITORIUM
7:15 PM ET IN-PERSON ONLY	<i>HERE BEGINS A NEW LIFE SERIES</i> Mesmerizing Beauty A presentation on the wonders hidden in a peacock's tail with Michael Waldstein , Professor of Theology, Franciscan University of Steubenville	ALTMAN AUDITORIUM
8:00 PM ET IN-PERSON ONLY	<i>HERE BEGINS A NEW LIFE SERIES</i> Who Is My Neighbor? Looking at immigration through the eyes of immigrants and those who welcome them, with Amparito Espinoza , Ecuadorian immigrant, and Sister Norma Pimentel , Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, moderated by Jackie Adrette , Managing Director, AVSI USA	ALTMAN AUDITORIUM
9:00 PM ET IN-PERSON +ONLINE	Ardenthearted A journey with Cormac McCarthy inspired by his novels, with original music by Jonathan Fields , composer, with Phil Faconti , guitar, Ted Kuhn , violin, Ken Genuard , actor, and Susan Stein , actress	PAVILION AUDITORIUM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16		
8:30 AM ET IN-PERSON +ONLINE	Holy Mass Mass for the 20 th anniversary of Fr. Luigi Giussani's death, celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan , Archbishop of New York, with the Choir of the New York Encounter, directed by Sebastian Modarelli , Music Director at the Co-Cathedral of St. John, Rochester, Minnesota	PAVILION AUDITORIUM
10:15 AM ET IN-PERSON ONLY	<i>HERE BEGINS A NEW LIFE SERIES</i> "The beauty of it smote his heart ... and hope returned to him" (J.R.R. Tolkien) A presentation on hope in the work of J.R.R. Tolkien with Michael Drout , Professor of English, Wheaton College, Corey Olsen , President of Signum University and Mythgard Institute, and Giuseppe Pezzini , Associate Professor of Latin Language and Literature, Oxford University, moderated by Annie Thompson , Teaching Fellow, St. John's College	ALTMAN AUDITORIUM
11:30 AM ET IN-PERSON +ONLINE	How We Got Here A discussion on the roots of the American political crisis with James Davison Hunter , Distinguished Professor of Religion, Culture and Social Theory, University of Virginia, and Paul Kahn , Professor of Law and the Humanities, Yale University, moderated by Amy Sapenoff , teacher	PAVILION AUDITORIUM
12:45 PM ET IN-PERSON ONLY	<i>HERE BEGINS A NEW LIFE SERIES</i> In the Midst of Hell, Not Hell Stories of life and hope in the Holy Land with Wafa Farid Musleh , President, Holy Land Living Stones Association, Bethlehem, Palestine, Fr. Ramzi Sidawi , Guardian at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, and Hosam Abu Sini , Oncologist, Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, moderated by Archbishop Gabriele Caccia , Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the U.N.	ALTMAN AUDITORIUM
2:00 PM ET IN-PERSON +ONLINE	Awakening Curiosity A conversation on the aims, content, and methods of education in the U.S. with Holly Peterson , Assistant Superintendent for Academics, Diocese of Columbus, and David Steiner , Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy, moderated by Most Rev. Earl Fernandes , Bishop of Columbus, Ohio	PAVILION AUDITORIUM
3:15 PM ET IN-PERSON ONLY	<i>HERE BEGINS A NEW LIFE SERIES</i> Can the Past Be Healed? A face-to-face meeting with Leo Schofield , wrongly imprisoned for 35 years, moderated by Hannah Chesterton , Assistant Professor of Criminology, The Catholic University of America	ALTMAN AUDITORIUM
4:15 PM ET IN-PERSON +ONLINE	What We Do and Do Not Know A presentation on global warming and climate change with Kerry Emanuel , Professor Emeritus of Atmospheric Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and David Romps , Professor of Earth and Planetary Science, University of California, Berkeley, moderated by Massimo Robberto , Branch Lead of the Near-Infrared Camera of the James Webb Space Telescope	PAVILION AUDITORIUM
5:30 PM ET IN-PERSON +ONLINE	A New Life Two young modern saints: Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, presented by Cardinal Christophe Pierre , Papal Nuncio to the United States, Antonia Salzano , Carlo Acutis' mother, and Christine Wohar , Founder, FrassatiUSA, Inc., moderated by Amy Hickl , Dean of Faculty, Notre Dame Academy School, Los Angeles	PAVILION AUDITORIUM
7:30 PM ET IN-PERSON ONLY	"In my end is my beginning" (T.S. Eliot) Final night of celebration and songs with the Encounter volunteers	PAVILION AUDITORIUM