



Scholas honors Pope Francis and announces new actions with young people from around the world

Vatican City, May 29, 2025 – This Thursday, the **Second International Meeting on Meaning**, organized by **Scholas Occurrentes**, concluded in the New Synod Hall of the Vatican. The event gathered young people, religious leaders, academics, international organization representatives, and government officials from more than 30 countries.

The meeting began on Tuesday with a visit to the **Basilica of Saint Mary Major**, where participants paid tribute to **Pope Francis** as the spiritual founder of the movement. The ceremony was led by Argentine Bishop **Mons. Ariel Torrado Mosconi**. At the end of the day, participants reflected on the beauty of Pope Francis' legacy for young people and looked ahead to upcoming milestones on the road to 2030.

Key highlights of the new “Scholas 2030” plan include:

- The launch of Scholas' first global APP, which will connect 7.5 million students, educators, and parents.
- The expansion of Scholas programs in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore.
- The strengthening of initiatives in Spain, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Poland, and the United Kingdom.
- The creation of film schools in Africa and Latin America, and the release of three film productions.

On the second day, the youth attended the **public audience of Pope Leo XIV** in Saint Peter's Square. During the gathering, inclusion advocate **Juan Pablo Dos Santos** presented the Pope with a Scholas t-shirt on behalf of the youth from Scholas Occurrentes. Later, back in the New Synod Hall, panel discussions were held on communication, artificial intelligence, interreligious dialogue, and fraternal politics for human development. Participants included **Mons. Lucio Ruiz**, Secretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Communications, and **Lucas Rodriguez**, a Catholic Argentine influencer.

During the **closing session**, Scholas announced its next major global event: the **International “Youth for Peace” Encounter**, which will bring together young people from diverse religions and cultures – including Israeli and Palestinian youth – to engage in a process of formation, dialogue, and collective creation around peace.

One of the most moving moments of the event was the panel *“Art as a Language of Meaning”*. **Giuseppe Burrafato** and **Pietro Macaione**, two young men from Sicily, shared their experience

with the **Aldeas Mov** project. They spoke about the profound impact of meeting **Martin Scorsese** in their own community:

“We usually see these kinds of figures only in big capitals. But here, we were sitting at the same table with him, telling our stories, talking about cinema face to face.”

During the same panel, a **video message from Martin Scorsese** was presented. The Academy Award-winning director is working with **Aldeas Scholas Films**, the educational production company born from Scholas’ cultural work, on the project *Aldeas: A New Story*, which addresses adolescent mental health and suicide prevention. *“I believe the Aldeas Scholas project is a beautiful dream. And in this moment in human history, it’s truly a necessity,”* said Scorsese.

As a result of the gathering, participants also launched the **Algor-Ethics initiative**, by signing the agreement *“Algorithms for Humanity – Technology in the Service of the Common Good”*, reaffirming Scholas’ commitment to ethical and human-centered innovation.

In his closing remarks, **Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça**, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, highlighted the central role of education in the vision of both **Pope Francis** and **Pope Leo XIV**.

At the end of the ceremony, Cardinal Tolentino blessed an **Olive Tree of Peace**, dedicated to the new Scholas communities in **Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Paraguay**, symbolically uniting “the Global South with the Global South.”


[PHOTO LINK](#)

[MARTIN SCORSESE VIDEO MESSAGE LINK](#)

For more information:

Miguel Arévalo – Press Coordinator, Scholas Occurrentes

 miguel.arevalo@scholasoccurrentes.org

 +34 661 93 46 40 | +54 9 11 4927 4146