



**Note to the Press**

**The Center for Higher Education**

presents

**A Sanctuary in the Vineyard**

**Borgo Laudato Si' as a model of Integral Development**

Vatican City, 20.09.2024

“A Refuge in the Vineyard - Borgo Laudato Si' as a model of Sustainable Development” is the title of the panel discussion organized by **the Laudato Si' Higher Education Center** (CAF-LS), held on Thursday afternoon, September 19, 2024 at Palazzo San Calisto, and attended by international experts in the area of sustainable agriculture and viticulture.

Fr. Fabio Baggio, Director General of CAF-LS, kicked off the meeting saying: «The beauty of the Barberini Villa and the Pontifical Villas gardens becomes the natural setting for the development of a place of “integral ecology”, open to all people of good will. The activities and initiatives being held aim to promote education to integral ecology, circular economy and generative and environmental sustainability. Through the implementation of the Borgo Laudato si' project, we intend to provide a concrete sign of the applicability of the principles masterfully illustrated by Pope Francis in the Encyclical Laudato si'».

The experts in attendance dealt with three fundamental aspects of Sustainable Development: environmental, economic and social sustainability.

A concrete approach was privileged to reflect on these aspects, comparing them with the sustainable and regenerative agriculture model being pursued at Borgo Laudato si'.

The main focus of the conference was the presentation of the research, study and implementation of the **Vineyard of the Borgo Laudato si'** and of the wine features, being produced with grapes harvested in the agricultural area of the Pontifical Villas.

The vineyard represents a new model of sustainability enhanced by using more advanced technologies, a careful reconnection with bio-diversity and care for the ecosystem to concretely achieve the dimension of integral ecology.

The experts appointed by the **University of Udine**, coordinated by professors **Enrico Peterlunger and Roberto Zironi**, planted the "Laudato si'" vineyard, made up of a variety of vines coming from different origins and places, able - as a whole - to produce wine that for its composition symbolizes a communion in diversity.

The Laudato Si' Vineyard project is the result of a study to figure out which varieties of vines are more resistant to different diseases. These varieties were selected at the University of Udine by researchers who operated in conjunction with the Institute of Applied Genomics and the Rauscedo Cooperative Nurseries.

For the development of the vineyard, experts and professionals who hold high-standard technical knowledge in the sector have been cooperating, along with workers who take care of the land and vine, by sharing centuries-old knowledge and traditions, and learning new working techniques. They are the members of the *Commissio de Fructu Vineae* that was established for this purpose: Enrico Peterlunger, Roberto Zironi, Francesca Vimercati, Luigi Moio, Laurent Torregrosa, Antonio Dionisio Morata Barrado, Hans R. Schulz and Jancis Robinson.

It is, therefore, an osmosis of ancient wisdom and innovative knowledge that will result in making a high quality wine, determined by respect for the environment and care for every phase of its production realization. Thus, the vineyard becomes a tangible example of how agriculture can be carried out benefiting the environment, territory, vine workers and wine consumers.

All this requires codifying a sort of wine grammar giving sense and form to human labor, his relationship with the land and the ability to generate beauty through his work. In fact, the CAF-LS commitment is to make Borgo Laudato si' a repeatable model that may contribute to spread and strengthen the culture of care that preserves the Common Home and promotes the integral human development of every human being, with special attention to the inclusion of those living in vulnerable conditions.

This is actually the mandate that the commission of international experts, accompanied by Fr. Fabio Baggio, received during their meeting with **Pope Francis**. In fact, the Holy Father highlighted in his greeting to those in attendance how he was "particularly happy that both for cultivation and agricultural production - in particular for the vineyard -, a large amount of manpower is expected. This meets the goal set forth at the beginning to restore good and fruitful relationships between human family and creation, by working to take care and safeguard what has been entrusted to us by the Creator."

[\(Read the full text of the Holy Father to the Delegation of Experts cooperating with CAF - LS\)](#)