

DIALOGUES

TO CAESAR AND TO GOD



DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES AND INLAND TERRITORIES

THE RISKS OF DEPOPULATION

IL BACO DA SETA - STRADA STATALE 17, KM 31 - L'AQUILA
FRIDAY 17 AND SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER



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MAGNA CARTA



DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES AND INLAND TERRITORIES

The majority of Italian municipalities have less than five thousand inhabitants. Many of them constitute those territories that common sense refers to as 'inland areas'. They risk becoming depopulated within a few years. Medieval villages with centuries of history are facing the disturbing prospect of falling into oblivion. This dynamic, caused by an ageing population and low birth rate, calls for urgent reflection if we are to prevent part of our natural, social and cultural heritage from being marginalised.

About the issue of the relationship between inland territories and demography it may, therefore, be useful and urgent to reknit the thread of dialogue between believers and non-believers: that thin thread that the Magna Carta Foundation supports through the "To Caesar and to God" meetings, doing everything possible to ensure that it is not interrupted. This year, not by chance, the venue chosen for the meeting is L'Aquila, which can be considered the capital of inland territories. It will take place on 17th and 18th November. The dialogue can be structured starting from some solid premises, of which we will recall only a few essential and evocative features.

On the believers' side, the Church's repeated admonition to take care of Creation, our 'Common Home', should be emphasised. Just to refer to the most recent texts, we can point to the 'Benevento Pastoral' in which the Church calls for more attention and more opportunities for young people who choose to remain in their communities of origin, for families who choose to have children, and for those who decide to care for the elderly. Pope Benedict's statement that demographic decline is depriving our society of the vitality and potential embodied in our children underlines the urgency of the challenge. Hence the Church's invitation to politics to formulate proposals that can ensure the unified and inclusive growth of inland Italian territories.

THE RISKS OF DEPOPULATION

On the side of the non-believers, many of the worries expressed by the Church can be declined regardless of reasons of an exquisitely religious or even merely identity-related nature. The abandonment of vast swathes of the country, in fact, poses problems in terms of land management aggravated by recurring climatic crises, the loss of a substantial portion of GDP due to the decline of an economy that – if sustained – would present not insignificant margins for development; the social and health management of a segment of the population that is ageing without support from families or public structures, safety and respect for the law; as abandoned territories, they present a higher risk of criminal infiltration.

From these premises, the debate can be developed around concrete issues, with the aim of fostering solutions of a social, administrative and even legislative nature. Below are just a few of the issues that will be addressed, reflecting the richness and complexity of the topic: how and with what means to invest in social capital, in order to create new opportunities for sustainable development; how to strengthen the sense of belonging of local communities and, therefore, their social cohesion; how to support local economies, their diversification and the development of youth entrepreneurship; by what means, within what limits and with what guarantees to create a relationship between the depopulation of inland areas and the immigration phenomenon; how to boost education and skills training tailored to the specific needs of the territories; how to strengthen transport networks and digital infrastructures in order to 'disintermediate' to connect inland areas to wider markets, providing them with greater economic opportunities; whether and through which administrative reorganisation processes it will be possible to invest in 'medium-sized towns' as points of contact and coordination for villages and hamlets otherwise left without effective reference points.

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

GREETING AND OPENING ADDRESS

15.45 – 15.10

GAETANO QUAGLIARIELLO President of Magna Carta Foundation
S. EM. R. CARD. GIUSEPPE PETROCCHI Archbishop of L'Aquila

KEYNOTE SPEECH

15.10 – 16.45

GIANCARLO BLANGIARDO Former President of Istat (Italian national Statistical Institute)
S. E. R. MONS. FELICE ACCROCCA Archbishop of Benevento
PIERLUIGI BIONDI Mayor of L'Aquila
GUIDO CASTELLI Government Commissioner earthquake 2016

ADMINISTRATORS AND TERRITORIES: COMPARING EXPERIENCES

Chairman Florindo Rubbettino

First Panel (16.45 – 18.00)

NICOLA ALEMANNI Mayor of Norcia (PG)
MARCO FIORAVANTI Mayor of Ascoli Piceno
ALFONSO DATTOLO Mayor of Rocca di Neto (KR)
NICOLA TRUNFIO Mayor of Villamaina (AV)

COFFEE BREAK

18.00 – 18.30

THE ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGE TO TRADITIONAL CLEAVAGES AND EUROPEAN POLITICAL FAMILIES

Chairman Gaetano Quagliariello

Second Panel (18.30 – 19.45)

STEFANO FASSINA President of "Patria e Costituzione"
NICOLA PROCACCINI Member of European Parliament
LUIGI MARATTIN Member of Italian Parliament

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

THE SOCIAL DIMENSION: LABOUR, WELFARE AND SAFETY

Chairman Giulio De Rita

Third Panel (9.00 – 10.15)

HEALTHCARE ANNAMARIA PARENTE

Former President Italian Senate's Committee on Health

LABOUR NATALE FORLANI

Consultant of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy

SAFETY ANTONIO GUERRIERO

Public Prosecutor in Frosinone

CORPORATE WELFARE FRANCESCA RIZZI

Co-founder and CEO Jointly

A LOOK TOWARDS EUROPE: THE DUTCH CASE

Fourth Panel (10.15 – 10.30)

JOHANNES DE JONG

Director of Sallux Foundation

THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

Chairman Gian Mario Spacca

Fifth Panel (10.30 – 11.45)

HISTORICAL TRAIN LUIGI CANTAMESSA

Director of Fondazione FS

INNOVATION SERAFINO SORRENTI

CIO Presidency of the Council of Ministers

TURISM IVANA JELINIC

CEO of ENIT

INFRASTRUCTURES MASSIMO BRUNO

CCAO Italian State Railways Group (Ferrovie dello Stato)

ENERGY RESOURCES NICOLA LANZETTA

Director of Enel Italy

CONCLUSIONS

11.45 – 13.30

Videomessage by **S. EM. R. CARD. CAMILLO RUINI**

GAETANO QUAGLIARIELLO

President of Magna Carta Foundation

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