

# "This Urge for the Truth"

NEW YORK  
ENCOUNTER X  
2022

FEBRUARY 18-20

METROPOLITAN PAVILION  
125 W. 18th St. NYC

## PROGRAM 2022

A pandemic turned the whole world upside down. Millions of people died, and their relatives and friends have had to cope with suffering and death. Nobody could avoid, at least for one moment, some radical questions: Why do we have to suffer and die? What is the meaning of all of this? Is there nothing I can do? What can I rely on? Feeling ill at ease, we moved on to less unsettling questions: Is COVID really dangerous? Are masks necessary? Should vaccinations be mandatory? For many of us, our political affiliations provided "answers" to these questions, inviting us to follow a party line rather than search for the truth.

This same dynamic, fueled by the media and online communities we choose to trust, happens all the time in our public life: whether the election was fair or stolen; whether a demonstration was a protest or a riot; whether racism is systemic; whether gender is related to biological sex; whether climate change is real. It seems we live in different worlds, each with its own "truths" that often spare us the hard work of seeking the truth. But at what price?

Reality no longer surprises us. It is twisted to fit our interpretations, and its meaning is purely subjective. Its impact does not open questions which would set us on a journey and, after a while, even the most tragic events do not change our minds. As a result, we feel both trapped in our certitudes and afraid of the unexpected. We are left dissatisfied, with the nagging feeling that we are losing ourselves. And yet, a subtle, relentless desire for what is true remains.

**Can we ever know what is real and who is trustworthy?  
Why does truth matter? And how can we reach it?**

"One day the wanderer slammed a door shut behind him, came to a halt, and wept. Then he said: 'This penchant and urge for what is true, real, non-apparent, certain—how I hate it!'"

~Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Joyous Science*

Join us February 18–20, 2022, for a weekend of public discussions, exhibits, and live performances, to encounter people who face these questions head-on.

**IN-PERSON and  
LIVE-STREAMED** at  
[www.newyorkencounter.org](http://www.newyorkencounter.org)

New York Encounter is an annual three-day public cultural event in the heart of New York City, offering opportunities for education, dialogue, and friendship.

All New York Encounter events are free and open to the public.

No registration required.

**COVID-19:**  
Current New York City regulations require all attendees to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

WWW.NEWYORKENCOUNTER.ORG

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED

● **6:30 pm ET | "The Tooth that nibbles at the soul"**  
(Emily Dickinson)  
The Encounter opens with poetry and music, with **Matthew Cossack**, baritone, **Andrea Domenici**, jazz pianist, **Radoslava Jasik**, classical pianist, and **Vaneese Thomas**, singer

● **9:00 pm ET | An Impossible Trust**  
Screening of the award-winning documentary *Unguarded*, on APAC, the revolutionary prison system aimed at the full recovery of the person. Introduced by **Valdeci Antônio Ferreira**, general director of the Brazilian Fraternity of Assistance to Convicts (FBAC), and **Simonetta d'Italia Wiener**, director of *Unguarded*, moderated by **Michelle Riconscente**, chief operating officer, Motimatic

IN-PERSON ONLY

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED

● **10:00 am ET | Politics: A Zero-Sum Game?**  
Overcoming ideological divides in the political battlefield  
**Speakers:**  
× **William Haslam** | former Governor of Tennessee  
× **Dan Lipinski** | former U.S. Congressman  
× **Kimberly Shankman** | Dean of Benedictine College, Atchison, KS

● **11:30 am ET | "Journalism is in the service of truth"**  
(Oriana Fallaci)  
A conversation on truth in journalism  
**Speakers:**  
× **Patrick Radden Keefe** | writer and investigative journalist  
× **Thomas Rosenstiel** | former executive director of the American Press Institute  
× **Elena Perazzini** | writer  
× **Brandon Vaidyanathan** | Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology, The Catholic University of America

● **2:00 pm ET | The End of the Pax Americana?**  
The changing role of the U.S. in global affairs and its impact on world peace and stability  
**Speakers:**  
× **Andrew Bacevich** | Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History, Boston University  
× **Michael Desch** | Founding Director of the Notre Dame International Security Center  
× **Paolo Carozza** | Professor of Law and Director of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame

● **4:00 pm ET | Facing Truth: Capitalism and Its Inner Challenges**  
A conversation on prosperity, opportunity, and inequality  
**Speakers:**  
× **Jean-Paul Fitoussi** | Professor Emeritus of Economics at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris  
× **Branko Milanovic** | senior fellow at the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality  
× **Samuele Rosa** | senior economist, International Monetary Fund  
× **Anujeet Sareen** | portfolio manager, Brandywine Global

● **6:00 pm ET | Can we ever know what is real?**  
A conversation on the erosion of trust in science and the price we pay  
**Speakers:**  
× **David Brooks** | *New York Times* editorialist  
× **Francis Collins** | Senior Investigator, former Director of the National Institutes of Health

● **9:00 pm ET | There Is More Love**  
The **Bay Ridge Band** LIVE in concert from New York

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

IN-PERSON ONLY

● **9:00 am ET**  
**Mass for the centennial anniversary of Fr. Luigi Giussani's birth**  
Celebrated by **Archbishop Christophe Pierre**, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, with the Choir of New York Encounter directed by **Sebastian Modarelli**, music director at the Co-Cathedral of St. John, Rochester, MN

● **11:00 am ET | Why Does Truth Matter? And How Can We Reach It?**  
This year Encounter's questions through Fr. Giussani's eyes, on the occasion of the publication of *To Give One's Life for the Work of Another* with **Michael Waldstein**, Professor of New Testament, Franciscan University, Steubenville, OH

● **2:00 pm ET | "Without truth, there is no reconciliation"** (Bryan Stevenson)  
**Speakers:**  
× **Bryan Stevenson** | founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative  
× **Esmeralda Negron** | assistant public defender

● **4:00 pm ET | Body and Identity**  
A presentation on gender theory and its social implications  
**Speakers:**  
× **Abigail Favale** | Dean of the College of Humanities, George Fox University  
× **Helen Joyce** | executive editor for events business of *The Economist*  
× **Holly Peterson** | Principal of Nativity: Faith and Reason School in Broomfield, CO

● **5:30 pm ET | "What never dies"** (Takashi Nagai)  
A presentation on the life of Dr. Takashi Nagai and his wife Midori  
**Speakers:**  
× **Gabriele Di Comite** | president of the Friends of Takashi and Midori Nagai association  
× **Chad Diehl** | historian and instructional designer, University of Virginia  
× **Dominic Higgins** | movie director

IN-PERSON ONLY

● **7:30 pm ET**  
**This Urge for Singing: How We Love It!**  
Final night of celebration and songs with the Encounter volunteers

IN-PERSON ONLY

## EXHIBITS

📍 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

### Nature Is a Spectacle that Is Never Exhausted

From curiosity to the beauty of discovery, a journey to regain trust in science

#### PRESENTATION

Friday, February 18, 7:45 pm ET | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium

### The Surprise Exhibit

Exhibit that "may change your life or leave you angry and confused"

#### PRESENTATION

Friday, February 18, 8:15 pm ET | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium

### "As far as my heart, I'd rather be restless": Amy Winehouse's Ache for the Truth

#### PRESENTATION

Saturday, February 19, 5:15 pm ET | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium

📍 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

### The Journey to the Truth

An exhibit on the Servant of God Fr. Luigi Giussani on the centennial of his birth

#### GUIDED TOURS OF EXHIBITS

Guided tours for each exhibit will be available every day. Please check the Encounter's website for scheduled tour times.

## POETRY CONTEST AWARD CEREMONY

Saturday, February 19, 8:40 pm ET | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium

[www.newyorkencounter.org](http://www.newyorkencounter.org)



## 📍 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium

IN-PERSON ONLY

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

### ● 12:45 pm ET | "I cannot say 'I' if I do not say 'you'" (Luigi Giussani)

A presentation of *The Meaning of Birth*, a conversation between Fr. Luigi Giussani, founder of Communion and Liberation, and Giovanni Testori

#### Speakers:

- × **Phil Klay** | author
- × **Margarita Mooney** | Associate Professor of Congregational Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary
- × **Rowan Williams** | theologian
- × **Greg Wolfe** | writer and managing director of Slant Books

### ● 3:00 pm ET | Charting Our Future in a Pandemic Year

Presentation of *Breaking Ground*, a book of a unique moral record of 2020-2021, and the network of diverse faith-based institutions which generated it

#### Speakers:

- × **Susannah Black** | senior editor of *Plough*
- × **Luke Bretherton** | Professor of Theological Ethics at Duke Divinity School
- × **Christine Emba** | columnist, *The Washington Post*
- × **Anne Snyder** | editor-in-chief of *Comment* and creator of *Breaking Ground*

### ● 7:30 pm ET | Haiti's Open Wounds

Eyewitness accounts on the relentless humanitarian crisis in Haiti, its causes, and future perspectives

#### Speakers:

- × **Fiammetta Cappellini** | AVSI country representative in Haiti
- × **Joe Parkin Daniels** | a correspondent for Latin America and the Caribbean at *The Guardian*
- × **Jackie Aldrette** | managing director, AVSI-USA

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

### ● 12:30 pm ET | Facing Unsettling Questions

Eyewitness accounts from the frontlines of healthcare

#### Speakers:

- × **Cristiano Ferrario** | Assistant Professor of Oncology, McGill University
- × **Federica Fromm** | medical doctor
- × **Enrico Grugnetti** | registered nurse
- × **Gerard Brungardt** | Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine

### ● 3:15 pm | Immunity: COVID-19 and Beyond

A scientific presentation on how our immune system responds to viruses and vaccines, with **Mark Painter**, post-doctoral fellow, Institute for Immunology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania