

“Tearing Open the Sleeping Soul” (Gregory the Great)

NEW YORK—Now in its 16th year, the **New York Encounter** (“Encounter”), an annual three-day public cultural event featuring panel discussions, artistic performances, and exhibits, will take place **February 16–18, 2024**, at the Metropolitan Pavilion at 125 W. 18th St. in Manhattan. The Encounter aims to give witness to a flourishing faith-generated life, catalyzing engagement on the grounds of inquiry, dialogue, and, ultimately, judgements that bring hope.

- Within the context of exploration and hope, the **2024 Encounter** gives bold focus to the wounds of civil and wartime strife, personal internal and external brokenness and suffering, and the real danger of polarizing ideology. While these struggles cause or are caused by a certain numbness, they also reveal that **what makes us human is irreducible**. So, we are invited to ask, “What can reawaken our humanity?”
- Understanding the power of language is key to such an inquiry, and this edition of the Encounter probes myriad aspects – from the challenges posed by political rhetoric and a culture of secular individualism to the gifts and potential of poetry, literature, peaceful dialogue, and other forms of expression that inspire and rekindle individual and collective identity, especially when shared in the powerful context of friendship. **Exhibits on Leonard Cohen and Simone Weil** offer provocative contributions to this discussion.
- Through incisive presentations that powerfully elucidate the Encounter’s ambitious theme, credible witnesses and learned speakers will bring to the fore purveyors of a pedagogy that revives the slumbering and gives direction to our paths ahead.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Current Events

- Saturday February 17, at 11:30 am: *A Fundamental Difference*
A close look at artificial intelligence with **Jonathan Stokes**, of Symbolic AI, and **Jennifer Strong**, producer of the tech podcast, *Shift*.
- Saturday, February 17, at 2:00 pm: *A Torn Open Wound*
A conversation on the war between Israel and Hamas and any conceivable road to peace, with **Shadi Hamid**, columnist and editorial board member for *The Washington Post*, and **Jacob Siegel**, senior editor for the *Tablet*.
- Sunday, February 18, at 12:45 pm: *Fratelli Tutti*
A conversation on Pope Francis’ *Fratelli Tutti* encyclical with **Cardinal Christophe Pierre**, Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S. and **Mrs. Tawakkol Karman**, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner.
- Sunday, February 18, at 2:00 pm: *An Incurable Wound?*
Eye-witness accounts of the life of Christians in the Holy Land with **Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa**, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and **Fr. Gabriel Romanelli**, Pastor of Holy Family Catholic Parish in Gaza.
- Sunday, February 18, at 4:15 pm: *Beyond Left and Right*
An exploration of the Supreme Court and its future with **Stephanos Bibas**, judge of the United States Court of Appeals, and **Jeffrey Pojanowski**, Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame.#

Arts and Language

- Friday, February 16, at 6:30 pm: *A Soul Waiting to Be Reawakened*
The Encounter will be opened by creative offerings from **Christian Wiman**, poet, and **Kuok-Wai Lio**, classical pianist.
- Saturday, February 17, at 9:30 am: *The Power of Language*
A presentation on the nature of language and the danger of ideologies with **Andrea Moro**, Professor of General Linguistics at the Institute of Superior Studies, Italy, and **Marguerite Peeters**, Director of the Institute for Intercultural Dialogue Dynamics, Brussels.
- Saturday, February 17, at 6:00 pm: *What Beauty Can Do to the Soul*
A conversation on the power of art to rekindle our humanity with **Patrick Bringley**, writer, and **Jean-François Martel**, author.

Education and Hope

- Sunday, February 18, at 11:30 am: *Made to Be Free*
A discussion on education in light of Fr. Luigi Giussani’s pedagogy with **Hans van Mourik Broekman**, Principal of Liverpool College, U.K., and **Aaron Riches**, Professor of Theology, Benedictine College.
- Sunday, February 18, at 5:30 pm: *From Death into Life*
Stories of forgiveness and hope with **Gilbert King**, journalist, and **Rachel Muha**, founder of the Brian Muha Foundation.

All events are free of charge. No registration necessary. Credentialed media are welcome. Contact for interviews:
press@newyorkencounter.org or (240) 793-5132.