



PRESS RELEASE | September 5 2025

Pope Leo XIV Inaugurates *Borgo Laudato si'*:

A Unique Initiative in the Church Inspired by Pope Francis's Encyclical *Laudato si'*

VATICAN CITY – Today, in a ceremony presided over by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, *Borgo Laudato si'* was inaugurated: a site that for centuries served as a papal residence and that has now officially opened to the public, inspired by the principles of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato si'*, which this year marks the tenth anniversary of its publication.

Arriving at Castel Gandolfo at 4:00 p.m., the Holy Father led a symbolic visit of the property before presiding at a Liturgy of the Word and Rite of Blessing. During his visit, he explored areas of historical and spiritual importance and met with employees, collaborators, their families, religious communities, and all those who contribute to the life of *Borgo Laudato si'*.

This historic event also featured Maestro Andrea Bocelli, who, together with his son Matteo, joined the gathering in prayer and offered a song for the Holy Father and the guests. Attending the ceremony were representatives of the partner companies and organizations supporting the project, along with members of the Roman Curia and various institutions.

The Project of *Borgo Laudato si'*

Located within the 136 acres of the Pontifical residence at Castel Gandolfo—home to gardens, villas, monuments, and archaeological remains—*Borgo Laudato si'* is the fruit of Pope Francis's vision. Cardinal Fabio Baggio explained:

"In 2023, by establishing the *Laudato si' Center for Higher Education*, Pope Francis gave life to *Borgo Laudato si'*, a place where care for creation and respect for human dignity—especially of the most vulnerable—could be fostered through shared commitment rooted in faith."

In this sense, *Borgo Laudato si'* represents something unique in the Church: a concrete model for applying the church principles of integral ecology, combining environmental stewardship with human dignity.

Fr. Manuel Dorantes, Management Director of *Borgo Laudato si'*, emphasized:

"This is a zero-impact space, created for the welcome of all and the support of the most vulnerable. It will allow anyone—students, business leaders from around the world, and members of religious communities—to experience a unique encounter of faith that interweaves spirituality, education, and sustainability. The project's goal is to offer

an open, accessible, and inclusive space where people can be formed, reflect, and experience a more conscious and respectful relationship with creation and with God.”

Agriculture, Formation, and Community Life

Within the property are extensive agricultural areas dedicated to vineyards and olive groves, as well as spaces for animals—including cows, chickens, donkeys, and horses. New facilities for training, hospitality, and regenerative organic farming have also been developed, particularly in the new “Sanctuary” complex, which includes classrooms, multipurpose halls, and an educational greenhouse.

The first training programs at *Borgo Laudato si’* began in recent months, involving vulnerable groups such as refugees, survivors of violence, former prisoners, and the unemployed.

Built by Partnerships

All activities and programs of *Borgo Laudato si’* are made possible through collaborations and partnerships with private organizations and companies, ensuring the project’s economic sustainability. To date, support has come from:

- Intesa Sanpaolo
- Deloitte
- Green Hopes 4.0
- Smith and Stefani LLC (Chicago, USA)
- University of Udine
- Farmacias Similares (Mexico)
- FedUF (Financial Education Foundation)
- Percorsi di Cittadinanza
- University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN, USA)
- Fonarcom Training Fund
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- Fondazione Stefano Zorzi

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