THE LIVING CHAPEL PROJECT

LET’S TAKE CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

THE LIVING CHAPEL arrives in Milan with a special edition for #All4Climate - Italy 2021 and Pre-Cop26

PRESENTATION:
September 28, 2021, 3:00 p.m. - Press Area Youth4Climate & Pre-COP26
MiCo, via Gattamelata, 13 - 20149 Milano

Limited number of seats, please confirm attendance at:
https://y4c-milan.com/registery4p
On admission, mandatory Covid19 rapid antigen test

An architectural-landscape installation, a place of inspiration for action to combat the climate crisis, and a symbol of interreligious dialogue for the common goal of caring for our planet.

This is the Living Chapel, conceived by musical composer Julian Revie, a garden that induces spiritual reflection on the intimate need for harmonious connection between humanity and nature and a program of action, supported and shared by the Vatican’s Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Living Chapel embodies the words of the Encyclical Laudato Si’ in a garden donated to the city of Milan to represent integral ecology and brotherhood in caring for our common home alongside Pope Francis, who convened all religions to bring a message to COP26 to remind leaders to act.

“The work of the Dicastery is to promote the integral development of the person through the recovery of the capacity for a relationship between man and the earth. The Living Chapel is a key example of this combination which is both atavistic and impelling; its spirit of reception and openness, of sharing and dialogue, inherent in the basic idea, becomes concrete in its realization because it is triggered in the territory and presents itself to the visitor in its shared sacredness, which must always be inhabited with care.” Rev. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam, head of Ecology and Creation for the Holy See’s Dicastery, explained.
THE BACKGROUND:

Built in Milan in the Aristide Calderini garden, the third Living Chapel in Italy, following the Botanical Garden in Rome and the Po Delta Regional Park in Venice, it’s a special edition for All4Climate Italy2021, an event promoted by the Ministry of Ecological Transition, Connect4Climate of the World Bank Group, the City of Milan and the Regione Lombardia to mark the Italian partnership at the 26th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change promoted by the United Nations, COP26.

“I am truly honored and delighted to continue our partnership with the Living Chapel and I keep being amazed by the beauty being created. The Living Chapel in Milan is yet another example of UNEP’s Faith for Earth principles of the Living Houses of Worship and is a marvelous contribution to the role of faith in achieving the goals of the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and the sustainable development goals. It indeed responds to what Pope Francis said: Restoring the nature we have damaged is restoring ourselves”, explained Iyad Abumoghli, director of the United Nations Faith for Earth program.

The opening will take place in the context of Pre-COP26, an event in which 400 young people from around the world will come together to reflect on the issues that have emerged since the 2015 Paris Agreements and to present concrete proposals to the United Nations Climate Change Conference that opens on November 1 in Glasgow.

“I am proud of this new Living Chapel that we have brought to life during Youth4Climate in Milan where so many young people from all over the world are coming together to give voice to their ideal: fighting the climate emergency by acting together and in harmony with nature. Likewise, the Living Chapel in the Calderini garden belongs to the young people because it was born from the work of young apprentice gardeners who, with commitment and passion, planted the first trees reminding everyone to take action and ensure that every tree grown is a symbol of life for future generations.” Explained architect Consuelo Fabriani, director of the Living Chapel program and designer of the Milan installation at Calderini Garden.

Astrid Tuuli Grace Determan, a young 14-year-old activist will be connected to resonate the Laudato Si’ message through a new movement involving her peers in the fight against climate change: Laudato Si’ Kids. Astrid, is also the founder of EPIC-Animals an organization for the protection of endangered animals that is advocating for a call to action for younger people.

“We can and must create a powerful movement that will begin to change the way we look at economics, nature and our relationship to the world. To achieve that, we need a new story...or, perhaps, to remember an old story...where nature is considered precious, animals are regarded as family and where humankind gives back to the earth. That’s why a kids version is so important and why we want our initiative to engage young people at the front lines of climate change the world over” Explains Astrid Determan.

THE PROJECT:

Inspired by the style and colors of the pavements of the Roman basilicas, the Living Chapel is set in the Aristide Calderini garden as a continuous link with the remains of the entrance portico of the Casa dei Cori, a fifteenth-century residence, probably designed by Bramante, which was lost in the bombings of the Second World War and of which only a façade remains standing.

As we cross the opening, the design unravels on the radial symmetry of the circles drawing a path that in the Living Chapel symbolizes the urgency of ecological conversion. This space, a symbol of the encounter between the different religious visions present in the world, contains in its essence the peaceful interreligious dialogue aimed at “taking care of our common home”.

“Through the themes of harmony, unity, and biodiversity, as well as transformation and rebirth, the Living Chapel in the Calderini Garden offers an invitation for dialogue among all peoples and faiths. May this unexpected space of serene harmony in the midst of the vibrant city of Milan provide hope and inspiration for many years to come.” Commented Julian Revie, creator of the Living Chapel Project.

Speakers will include:

**Marco Gisotti**: Ministry of Ecological Transition, Advisor to the Minister for Environmental Communication

**Arch. Paola Viganò**: Director of Green Areas, Agriculture and Urban Design Unit for Sponsorship and General Affairs - City of Milan

**Julian Darius Revie** (in streaming): Australian-Canadian composer, he designed “The Living Chapel”

**Arch. Consuelo Fabriani**: program director of The Living Chapel Project and designer of the Milan installation

**Iyad Abu Mogli** (in streaming): UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) Coordinator of “Faith for Earth

**Rev. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam**: Head of the Ecology and Creation Office at the Vatican’s Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

**Padre Antonio Teodoro Lucente**: President, ENGIM Foundation (Ente Nazionale Giuseppeini del Murialdo)

**Astrid Tuuli Grace Determan** (messaggio video): founder of EPIC Animals and Laudato Si’ Kids

**Giacinto Giambellini**: President, Confartigianato Imprese Bergamo

**Mario Viscardi**: Creative Director, Piano B

**Moderator**: Andrea Stocchiero: Ufficio Policy Focsiv

The success of this project is the result of a unified commitment between the institutions and sponsors that have contributed to its realization. These include: PIANO B for enabling the realization of the whole installation; MATI 1909, who donated the plants; Confartigianato Bergamo, who provided the local construction team; Muscatelli Geo Tecnologie, who supported and guided the creation of the flooring; and Metalco, who contributed to the sustainable furnishing of the garden. Finally, special thanks to the Engim Foundation for their constant support and for being the custodian of the Living Chapel Garden.