

Where “Everything is Waiting for You” (David Whyte)

NEW YORK—Now in its 18th year, the **New York Encounter**, an annual three-day public cultural event featuring panel discussions, artistic performances, and exhibits, will take place **February 13–15, 2026**, at the Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 W. 18th St., NYC.

The 2026 edition will highlight how, in a world of isolated global consumers, a deep yearning for places of belonging is emerging. This desire can only be fulfilled where freedom thrives, truth and meaning are sought, forgiveness is experienced, and dignity is a given, not a goal. All of life blooms with openness and certainty in such a place, like in a true home. Thus, the 2026 Encounter will explore how humanity flourishes within this type of belonging. **Twenty-five events and five exhibits** will focus on this reality from diverse and fascinating angles.

HIGHLIGHTS (*Live-streamed at www.newyorkencounter.org*)

- **Friday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 pm: “Everything is waiting for you”**
The Encounter opens with music, poetry, and a reflection by **Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa**, Patriarch of Jerusalem.
- **Saturday, Feb. 14, at 11:30 am: A home in the storm**
Witnesses to the faith that is sustaining the Church in Ukraine include **Bishop Pavlo Honcharuk** of Kharkiv; and **Fr. Wojciech Stasiewicz**, Director of Caritas-Spes in Kharkiv.
- **Saturday, Feb. 14 at 2:00 pm: The end of an era?**
A conversation on the crisis of globalization between **Michael Sandel**, Professor of Government, Harvard; and **Paolo Carozza**, Professor of Law, Notre Dame.
- **Saturday, Feb. 14, at 4:00 pm: A fact in history**
A presentation of Msgr. Luigi Giussani’s seminal work, *At the Origin of the Christian Claim* with **Davide Prosperi**, President of the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation; **John Haldane**, Chair of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, St. Andrew University; and **Cyril O’Regan**, Professor of Theology, Notre Dame.
- **Sunday, Feb. 15, at 2:00 pm: 250 years and counting...**
A panel addressing the relevance and future prospects of America’s founding ideals with **Mary Ann Glendon**, Professor of Law (emerita), Harvard, and **Meir Soloveichik**, Orthodox rabbi and author.
- **Sunday, Feb. 15, at 5:30 pm: A surprising reality**
An introduction to quantum physics and computing by Harvard physics professors **Michail Lunik** and **Giulia Semeghini**.
- **Sunday, Feb. 15 at 5:30 pm: Twice called**
A tribute to the 19 Algerian martyrs with **Fr. Thomas Georgeon**, postulator of the cause of their beatification; **Anne-Marie Gutavson**, sister of martyred Bishop Pierre Claverie; and **Paul Heck**, Professor of Theology and Islamic Studies, Georgetown.

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