

NEW YORK
ENCOUNTER X

FEBRUARY 12-14 2021

When Reality Hits

Streaming live via YouTube from the Sheen Center in New York City at the Encounter website:

WWW.NEWYORKENCOUNTER.ORG

In 2020 reality hit us hard. First, the pandemic overturned our daily routines, jeopardized our health and economic security, and took away lives and livelihoods. It filled our days with uncertainty and discomfort, often leaving us feeling helpless and afraid. Then, the killing of George Floyd shocked our nation and prompted widespread social unrest, a desperate cry for justice. Finally, the election plunged the country into such divisive acrimony, fueled in part by the media, that we are seriously worried about the future of our democracy.

Reality is still hitting. It has elicited the best in us: an urgency to respond, admiration for the caregivers, solidarity with those in need and for the victims of injustice. But after so many months, tiredness and a sense of rebellion are sinking in. Ultimately, the events of the past months have exposed our radical neediness and debunked our illusion of control. A deeper, truer core of our humanity is emerging: **expectancy**. Expectancy of a vaccine, of the end of racism, of political change or ... of something else, more radical. It is this expectancy that pushes us towards the future, igniting the desire to continue to walk.

We want to move forward. But we do not want our experience of these events to be muddled by ideological interpretations. We do not want to waste the sorrow we have suffered and the lessons we have learned, as if they had been in vain.

What happened in 2020 indeed changed and is still changing us. What is the nature of this change? What are we looking for? Will life ever be the same? Can this change be a milestone in the journey of life?

Join us online via New York Encounter website February 12-14, for a weekend of lively discussions, exhibits and performances to delve into these questions and sustain our desire to live fully here and now.

www.newyorkencounter.org

New York Encounter is an annual three-day cultural event coming to you live via Encounter's website this year from the heart of New York City, offering opportunities for education, dialogue, and friendship.

All New York Encounter events are live-streamed free. All are invited.

There will be simultaneous Spanish interpretation provided during all 2021 events.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

● 7:00 pm ET

2020: A Milestone in the Journey of Life?

The Encounter opens with introductory remarks by **Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa**, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and music played by **Molly Morkoski**, pianist

● 9:00 pm ET

The Relevance of the Stars

Presentation of a new book by Msgr. Lorenzo Albacete, priest, theologian, and former rocket scientist, with **Stephen Sanchez**, president of the Albacete Forum, and **Lisa Lickona** and **Gregory Wolfe**, editors of *The Relevance of the Stars*, a newly published collection of Albacete's writings. Moderated by **John Touhey**, filmmaker, who will introduce this year's Encounter exhibit "**The Albacete Show**."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

● 12:00 pm ET

Not by Profit Alone

Online conversation on rethinking work, business, and economy in a post-Covid world

Speakers:

- × **Raghuram Rajan** | the Katherine Dusak Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance, the University of Chicago Booth School of Business
- × **Ratna Sahay** | deputy director, Monetary and Capital Markets Department, International Monetary Fund
- × **Stefano Zamagni** | professor of Economics, University of Bologna and president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences
- × **Anujeet Sareen** (moderator) | portfolio manager, Brandywine Global

● 2:00 pm ET

The Core of Our Humanity

An online dialogue on the Encounter theme

Speakers:

- × **Paolo Carozza** | professor of Law and Director of Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame
- × **Charles Taylor** | philosopher and professor emeritus, McGill University

● 4:00 pm ET

The Faith of Fr. Giussani

Presentation of the exhibit on the Servant of God Msgr. Luigi Giussani, founder of Communion and Liberation, with **Holly Peterson**, high school principal and exhibit curator, **Archbishop Christophe Pierre**, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, and **Barry Stohman**, entrepreneur and business manager

● 6:00 pm ET

Defenseless?

A conversation on the power of big tech corporations, free information, and social media censorship

Speakers:

- × **Matt Stoller** | director of research at the American Economic Liberties Project and a visiting lecturer in the Department of History at Columbia University
- × **Matthew Taibbi** | author, journalist, and podcaster
- × **Brandon Vaidyanathan** (moderator) | chair of the Department of Sociology, Catholic University of America

● 9:00 pm ET

When You Hit Reality

A roast of 2020 with comedians **Vince Fabra**, **Jeremy McLellan**, and **Tom Shillue**, and special guests

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

● 11:30 am ET

When Reality Hits

A reflection on the Encounter's theme by **Timothy Cardinal Dolan**, Archbishop of New York

● 12:00 pm ET

Why on Earth?

An online discussion on the "epidemic" of suicide and mental health issues in the time of Covid

Speakers:

- × **Aaron Kheriaty** | professor of psychiatry, Irvine School of Medicine, University of California
- × **Jeremy McLellan** | comedian
- × **Mary Townsend** | assistant professor of philosophy, St. John's University
- × **Margarita Mooney** (moderator) | associate professor of congregational studies, Princeton Theological Seminary

● 2:00 pm ET

A Desperate Cry for Justice

Seeking a truly human path to racial justice

Speakers:

- × **Anika Prather** | professor, Howard University
- × **Eugene Rivers** | Pentecostal minister
- × **Jacqueline Rivers** | director of the Seymour Institute for Black Church and Policy Studies
- × **Jonathan Liedl** (moderator) | journalist

● 4:00 pm ET

Lessons Learned

Online witnesses on education during the pandemic

Speakers:

- × **Damian Bacich** | professor of Ibero-American Literatures, San José State University
- × **Peter Fields** | Ph.D. candidate in physics, University of Chicago
- × **Rev. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B.** | high school headmaster
- × **Michelle Ratti** | teacher
- × **Patrick Tomassi** (moderator) | high school teacher

● 6:00 pm ET

"Hope always surprises me" (Charles Peguy)

Stories of new beginnings, with **Carolina Brito**, school principal, **Fr. Dustin Feddon**, founder of Joseph House, **Matthew Laracy**, founder of the Magnificat Home, **Juan Tapia-Mendoza**, founder of Pediatrics 2000 and member of SOMOS Community Care, and **Gabriel Tunage-Cooper**, resident at Joseph House, followed by concluding remarks by **Mikel Azurmendi**, sociologist

EXHIBITS

The Faith of Fr. Giussani

A documentary on the founder of Communion and Liberation which collects video-clips from several of his talks

The exhibit will also feature interactive encounters on Zoom with people who knew Fr. Giussani or were changed by him.

The documentary will be available on the Encounter website.

The Zoom meetings schedule can be found on the Encounter website and registration is required.

PRESENTATION: Sat, Feb 13, 4:00 pm ET

The Albacete Show

A video journey through the life and legacy of the amazing Lorenzo Albacete—priest, theologian, and former rocket scientist.

The exhibit will also feature interactive encounters on Zoom with Albacete's friends and fans.

The video will be available on the Encounter website.

The Zoom meetings schedule can be found on the Encounter website and registration is required.

PRESENTATION: Fri, Feb 12, 9:00 pm ET

