

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Today is the 2nd meeting of "Thursdays at the Leonian"**

Pope Francis, during a meeting with journalists a few days after his election, commenting on the election of his name, said the following: *"How I would like a poor Church and for the poor!"*. In this spirit, "walking towards a poor Church and for the poor", in full harmony with the Vincentian Charism, the 400th of which the Vincentian Worldwide Family has just celebrated, the Leonian Apostolic College in Rome organized "Thursdays at the Leonian", a cycle of meetings, from January to May, open to all, sponsored by the Vincentian Family.

On January 11 the cycle of meetings began with Professor Rosanna Virgili, biblicalist, who spoke about a sentence taken from the First Letter of Saint John: " My Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth" (1 Jn 3:18).

On February 15, at the beginning of Lent, the theme of the meeting will be: "The Vocation to Follow Jesus Poor," which will be presented by Monsignor Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life and Great Chancellor of the Pontifical Institute John Paul II.

The following month, on March 8, Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi will comment on a phrase from Psalm 33 (34): "When the poor cry, the Lord hears it."

At the time of Easter, Bishop Monsignor Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization, to whom the Pope entrusted the pastoral care of Shrines, will offer on April 19 a meditation on the sentence of Saint John Chrysostom: "If you want to honor the body of God, do not despise him when he is naked."

On May 3, closing the cycle of meetings, Mr. Luigino Bruni, editor of *Avvenire* and professor of LUMSA, will address the theme: "The Our Father: the prayer of the poor."

The meetings will be held at 6.30 pm, at the Leonian Apostolic College, on via Pompeo Magno 21. For more information, contact:

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*More information:*

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