



DEVOTIO

ESPOSIZIONE INTERNAZIONALE DI PRODOTTI
E SERVIZI PER IL MONDO RELIGIOSO
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS PRODUCTS
AND SERVICES EXHIBITION

Press release no. 3

CHURCH: THE FUTURE OF WORSHIP PLACES, BETWEEN FAITH AND CULTURAL HERITAGE. AT "DEVOTIO 2026" THERE WILL BE EXHIBITIONS AND CONFERENCES ON ART, LITURGY AND SACRED MUSIC

**The international trade fair for religious products will take place from January 31 to February 3 in Bologna
229 exhibitors will be present, with thousands of operators from all over the world participating**

Churches and basilicas were created as places of worship and spiritual life, but today their number appears excessive in relation to the actual needs of the communities of believers who are still practicing. Within ecclesial circles, and beyond, reflection has therefore begun on the possible transformations and diversified uses that these sacred buildings may undergo without distorting their original mission. It is precisely this question that "Devotio 2026" seeks to address. The fifth edition of the world's largest trade fair—and the only one in Italy—dedicated to devotional products and services for the religious sector will take place from January 31 to February 3, 2026, at BolognaFiere. The event, which is expected to host 229 exhibitors from Italy and 17 other countries, will feature a rich cultural program on the theme "Liturgical Space: Place of Faith, Cultural Heritage," including a series of conferences and exhibitions with the participation of priests, religious men and women, academics, and experts.

"Architecture built by the Christian community as a place for Eucharistic liturgy has, throughout the centuries, represented an image of the desire to imprint the foundations of faith into matter," states Valentina Zattini, CEO of Conference Service, the company organizing the fair, "highlighting from one era to another those aspects of the Gospel message that best interpret the sensitivity of the time. One may therefore ask what expectations, forms, and uses the contemporary Church proposes today, both in the spaces handed down by Christian tradition and in newly created environments. But above all, one may ask how the spiritual message of the Good News can be translated into spatial terms so as to engage younger generations and those who remain on the margins of the community, still not drawn by the novelty of Christ's resurrection."

The cultural program of "Devotio 2026" includes around ten conferences, workshops, and round tables addressing topics such as the church as the space of the ecclesia, art and literature in dialogue with the sacred, chant and music in the liturgy, the restoration of churches and bells, and Italian ecclesiastical law. Three exhibitions are also planned: "Beyond the Paths," showcasing works created by eleven young artists who participated between 2017 and 2024 in the initiative "Paths of Reconnection: Contemporary Artists in Dialogue with the Christian Mystery," curated by the Devotio Scientific Committee and the "Cardinal Giacomo Lercaro" Center for Studies in Sacred Architecture; "Artist's Chasubles," featuring ten liturgical vestments designed by ten artists as part of an initiative by Atelier Sirio; and "Via Crucis" by Filip Moroder Doss, with scenes drawn from the meditations of Pope John Paul II for the Biblical Way of the Cross celebrated at the Colosseum in 2002. Two events are also scheduled in the city of Bologna: the visit titled "Perspectives on Art and Architecture" at the Lercaro Museum of Art, and the concert "Sacred Music: Between the Renaissance and the Contemporary" by the Sibi Consoni Choir – Vocal Academy of Genoa at the Basilica of San Petronio.

"Devotio 2026" will host thousands of devotional products, objects for worship, furnishings, and technologies for churches, including crucifixes, rosaries, sacred images, statues and nativity scenes, bells, incense, candles, stained glass and mosaics, chalices and ciboria, liturgical vestments, sacred art, audio systems, donation collection systems, church furnishings, and clerical clothing. The fair has received patronage from the Dicastery for Culture and Education, the National Office for Ecclesiastical Cultural Heritage and Religious Buildings of the Italian Episcopal Conference, the National Liturgical Office of the Italian Episcopal Conference, the Church of Bologna, FACI–Federation of Clergy Associations in Italy, FIUDAC/S–Italian Federation of Diocesan Unions of Church Workers, and the Italian Association of Ecclesiastical Museums. The Scientific Committee is coordinated by Claudia Manenti, Director of the "Cardinal Giacomo Lercaro" Center for Studies in Sacred Architecture. Event partners also include Fondazione Culturale San Fedele and the Italian Province of the Pie Discepoli del Divin Maestro. The digital partner is the Ereligio.com Marketplace, while media partners include Edizioni San Paolo, Emil Edizioni (D'A), and Chiesa Oggi. Further information on www.devotio.it.

Bologna, 15th January 2026