

DEVOTIO: THE WORLD'S LARGEST FAIR FOR RELIGIOUS PRODUCTS OPENS TOMORROW 229 EXHIBITORS FROM ITALY AND 17 OTHER COUNTRIES WILL BE PRESENT IN BOLOGNA

Thousands of visitors from 50 different countries are expected to attend the fair, which closes on Tuesday, February 3.

An extensive program of conferences and workshops is also planned, along with exhibitions and events in the city.

Devotio 2026 opens tomorrow, the only trade fair in Italy and the largest in the world dedicated to devotional products and services for the religious sector. The event, now in its fifth edition, will run until Tuesday, February 3, at BolognaFiere. Once again, even this year the event is sold out: across a 15,000-square-meter exhibition area, 229 exhibitors from Italy and 17 other countries around the world will be present. Thousands of visitors are expected from nearly 50 nations across all continents. Religious articles and items for worship will be showcased, such as crucifixes, rosaries, sacred images, statues and nativity scenes, bells, incense, candles, stained glass and mosaics, chalices and ciboria, liturgical vestments and sacred art, as well as sound systems, donation collection systems, furnishings and technologies for churches, and clothing for the clergy. The inauguration is scheduled for tomorrow at 10:30 a.m., with the participation, among others, of Mons. Roberto Parisini, Vicar General of the Church of Bologna; Franco Baraldi, BolognaFiere board member and executive of the Bologna Chamber of Commerce; Don Antonio Interguglielmi, President of the Federation of Associations of the Clergy in Italy (FACI); and Rita Capurro, President of the Italian Association of Ecclesiastical Museums (AMEI).

"Every two years, the entire religious sector supply chain gathers in Bologna for what has become the most important international trade fair dedicated to devotional products," said Valentina Zattini, Chief Executive Officer of Conference Service, the company that organizes Devotio. "This edition of the fair will once again welcome thousands of producers, artists and artisans, service providers, associations, promotion agencies, and places of worship. Priests and religious, retailers, distributors, and numerous professionals will also be present. The event will therefore represent an unmissable opportunity to present new products, find new clients, create partnerships, and strengthen one's identity, thanks also to the richness and quality of both the exhibition and cultural offerings of our event."

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 will also be held: "Beyond the Paths," featuring 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 Scientific Committee of Devotio and the Study Center for Sacred Architecture "Cardinal Giacomo Lercaro"; "Artists' Chasubles," displaying ten liturgical vestments designed by as many artists as part of an initiative by Atelier Sirio; and "Via Crucis" by Filip Moroder Doss, with scenes taken 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 guided visit "Perspectives on Art and Architecture" at the Lercaro Art Museum and the concert "Sacred Music: Between Renaissance and Contemporary" by the Sibi Consoni Choir-Accademia Vocale di Genova at the Basilica of San Petronio.

"Devotio 2026" 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; the Federation of Associations of the Clergy in Italy (FACI); the Italian Federation of Diocesan Unions of Worship Ministers/Sacristans (FIUDAC/S); and the Italian Association of Ecclesiastical Museums (AMEI). The scientific committee is coordinated by Claudia Manenti, Director of the Study Center for Sacred Architecture "Cardinal Giacomo Lercaro." Event partners also include the San Fedele Cultural Foundation and the Italian Province of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master. The digital partner is the Marketplace Ereligio.com, while media partners are Edizioni San Paolo, Emil Edizioni (D'A), and Chiesa Oggi. Further information on www.devotio.it.

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