



The Global Foundation
Together, we strive for the global common good



**The Road
to Assisi**

21 October 2021

Your personal invitation

'The Road to Assisi' Roundtable

Let's be the change we want to see



The
Global Foundation
has the pleasure
of inviting you to
participate in the
'Road to Assisi'
Roundtable,
kindly hosted by
Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO

5pm-7pm AEST
via Zoom
Thursday,
21 October 2021



Newman College,
Melbourne

Please RSVP by
Monday,
11th October to:
sg@globalfoundation.org.au



'The Road to Assisi' Roundtable

Context and background:

The Global Foundation is a citizens' organisation, based in Australia and active worldwide. A non-profit entity, it is fully funded by memberships and sponsorships from the enlightened private sector, universities, and individuals and open to all to join. It brings together people from across the world, to build shared visions for the future and to create opportunities for positive, collaborative action to tackle some of the most critical global challenges of our time. The work of the Foundation is often 'faith-enabled', without it having any specific religious affiliations.

In an increasingly fractured world, the Global Foundation is more committed than ever to act on its motto: 'Together, we strive for the global common good'.

The unifying idea that underpins the Foundation's work as a catalyst and a mobiliser, globally and in Australia, is '**co-operative globalisation**', for a world that is **transformative, fair, inclusive and prosperous**.

Pope Francis and other world leaders have embraced the co-operative globalisation vision of the Global Foundation. See [here](#) for the address by His Holiness to the Foundation's [2017 Rome Roundtable](#) meeting. This was one of the many global roundtable discussions that the Foundation has convened over more than 20 years, in various capitals of the world, most often in Rome.

Co-operative globalisation sits at the centre of every dimension of global action that the Foundation seeks to encourage and facilitate. Through the power of the leaders who are invited to attend, these global meetings align their intentions and commit to undertaking significant action in their respective spheres of influence. These globally significant figures are drawn from diverse geographies and backgrounds, including faiths, international institutions, business and philanthropy, governments, academia and science, and civil society.



Global Meetings in Rome and Assisi

May 2022

Subject to Covid-19 travel restrictions, the Foundation intends to convene a further global roundtable meeting in Rome in May 2022. In addition, the roundtable will also meet in Assisi, the Italian hill town, for the first time.

Why Assisi? Assisi, already renowned worldwide as the birthplace of St Francis and as a global symbol of peace, has the ambition to become the world capital city of ecology. This ecological vision of the Mayor of Assisi, who is closely affiliated with the Global Foundation, is synonymous with the ideas expressed by Pope Francis in his *Laudato Si'* encyclical letter of 2015, a landmark statement and call to action on environmental degradation and global warming.

'Road to Assisi' Roundtable

As an Australian stepping-stone to the global meetings in Rome and Assisi next year, the Foundation has agreed, at the invitation of Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, Rector of Newman College Melbourne, to convene a 'Road to Assisi' Roundtable meeting at the College on 21 October, 2021. Due to anticipated Covid lockdowns, the roundtable will be conducted on line via Zoom.

The roundtable will enable a cross-section of younger Australians, members and guests of the Foundation as well as some special international speakers to engage in discussions which will contribute to the agenda for the global meetings in Rome and Assisi.

The meeting will also enable a focus on practical actions which might be undertaken by those taking part in Melbourne and Australia. *'We are still trying to find a way to get the balance right between global warming, economic development, and a fair go for everyone'*, stated Father Brennan. *'If we cannot change the world overnight, each of us wants to do their bit, being responsible, individually, communally, and institutionally.'*

'Laudato Si' will be the principal background document to inform the 'Road to Assisi' Roundtable at Newman College. Experts on Laudato Si' who are associated with the Vatican will help to guide the meeting. Other global experts associated with action on climate change through the mobilisation of large-scale private sector investments and related business actions, will also contribute to the meeting.