

- 19:00** *Eucharistic Celebration at the Chiesa Centrale del Sacro Cuore*
- 20:00** Buffet dinner
- 21:00** *Evening of testimonies and celebration: 'The beauty of human fecundity!'*
- Presentation of the 'Elio Sgreccia' Award, 2nd edition*
by the DONUM VITAE Association.

Sunday, October 18 2026

SESSION IV: SAFEGUARDING THE HUMAN PERSON BETWEEN HYPER-TECHNOLOGY AND THE CULTURE OF WASTE

- 8.30** *In the light of the Holy Scripture*
Rosalba MANES

Chairs:
Maurizio GENUARDI and Antonio OLIVA

- 8:45** *Clinical aspects and critical issues of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)*

Giovanni VENTO and
Domenica Immacolata BATTAGLIA

- 9:15** *Bioethical, cultural and legal aspects of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)*

Speakers: Alessio MUSIO, Renzo PEGORARO, Luisa DE RENZIS

- 10:30** Break

- 11:00** *Round Table: The transmission of human life today between AI, social media and politics*

Chair: Francesco OGNIBENE

Speakers: Giuliano AMATO, Alberto CARRARA, Maria Luisa DI PIETRO

- 12:30** **CONCLUSIONS**

Claudio GIULIODORI and Tullio GHI

With regard to the treatment of infertility, new medical techniques must respect three fundamental goods: a) the right to life and to physical integrity of every human being from conception to natural death; b) the unity of marriage, which means reciprocal respect for the right within marriage to become a father or mother only together with the other spouse; c) the specifically human values of sexuality which require "that the procreation of a human person be brought about as the fruit of the conjugal act specific to the love between spouses". Techniques which assist procreation "are not to be rejected on the grounds that they are artificial. As such, they bear witness to the possibilities of the art of medicine. But they must be given a moral evaluation in reference to the dignity of the human person, who is called to realize his vocation from God to the gift of love and the gift of life".

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH
Instruction *Dignitas Personae*, no. 12

In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace. True progress always stems from a heart open to others, an intelligence willing to listen and a will that seeks what unites rather than what separates.

LEO XIV, Encyclical
Letter *Magnifica Humanitas*, no. 15

ISI ISTITUTO SCIENTIFICO INTERNAZIONALE PAOLO VI
DI RICERCA SULLA FERTILITÀ ED INFERTILITÀ UMANA
PER UNA PROCREAZIONE RESPONSABILE

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the ISI-Paul VI Foundation
and the 50th anniversary of the Centre for the Natural Regulation of Fertility



The Splendour of the Human Person: Caring Fertility, Curing Infertility

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Rome, 16 - 18 October 2026



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



Fondazione Paolo VI per la
Cultura Cattolica in Italia

ISTITUTO TONIOLO
ENTE FONDATORE
DELL'UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE



Gemelli
Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Centro Pastorale
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Friday, October 16 2026

9:30 Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Matteo ZUPPI, President of CEI, the Italian Episcopal Conference, Church of Santo Spirito in Sassia, Rome

12:00 Audience with Pope LEO XIV
Vatican

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15.30 Auditorium - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Largo Francesco Vito 1

Institutional greetings:

Prof. Elena BECCALLI
Rector of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Dr Fabio GASPERINI
Fondazione per la Cultura Cattolica in Italia

Dr Daniele FRANCO
President, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS

Dr Giuseppe FIORONI
Vice President, Istituto Toniolo di Studi Superiori

Dr Alfredo MANTOVANO
Undersecretary to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Prof. Orazio SCHILLACI
Minister of Health

Dr Luisa REGIMENTI
Regional Minister for Universities of the Lazio Region

Prof. Alessandro SGAMBATO
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Prof. Antonio GASBARRINI
Scientific Director of the Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS

Prof. Eugenio Maria MERCURI
Director of the Department of Woman's and Children's Health Sciences of the Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS

16.15 *Dignity and Beauty of Procreation in the Magisterium of the Church*
Opening Lecture
His Eminence Cardinal Pietro PAROLIN
Vatican Secretary of State

17.00 *The Challenges of Human Generation: the Contribution of ISI-Paul VI*
Introduction by
His Excellency Msgr Claudio GIULIODORI
President of ISI-Paul VI - General Ecclesiastical Assistant - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

17.30 Break

SESSION I: THE TRANSMISSION OF LIFE BETWEEN SOCIETY AND SCIENCE

Chairs:
Walter RICCIARDI and Antonio LANZONE

17:45 *Between nature and artifice: cultural and legal questions*
Antonella SCIARRONE ALIBRANDI

18:15 *Science at the service of the treatment of infertility*
Tullio GHI

18:45 *Curing infertility: the Centre for Natural Procreation and the Treatment of Infertility*
Annamaria MEROLA

19:00 *Caring fertility: the Centre for the Natural Regulation of Fertility*
Paola PELLICANÒ

Saturday, October 17 2026

SESSION II: THE ROADMAP OF COUPLE FERTILITY

9.00 *In the light of the Holy Scripture*
Rosalba MANES

Male fertility factors

Chairs:
Alfredo PONTECORVI and Alberto FERLIN

9:10 *Male infertility: from pathogenesis to precision therapies*
Domenico MILARDI

9:30 *Prostato-vesiculitis: from chronic inflammation to sperm damage*
Edoardo VERGANI

9:50 *The role of surgery in restoring natural fertility*
Luis LÓPEZ-FANDO LAVALLE

10:10 *Olfactory chemoreception and characterization of the sperm membrane*
Emanuela TEVERONI

Female fertility factors

Chairs:
Anna FAGOTTI and Daniela ROMUALDI

10:30 *Fertility in patients with ovarian dysfunction*
Rosanna APA

10:50 *Tubal factor infertility: which therapy?*
Antoine WATRELOT

11:10 *Pathologies of the uterine cavity and their role in infertility*
Valeria MASCIULLO

11:30 Break

Couple fertility

Chairs:
Nicoletta DI SIMONE and Ornella PAROLINI

11:50 *Recurrent spontaneous abortion and the contribution of ISI*
Chiara TERSIGNI and Silvia D'IPPOLITO

12:10 *Thyroid and fertility: beyond the 'false myths'*
Salvatore RAIÀ

12:20 *The impact of metabolism: new perspectives on reproduction*
Carmine BRUNO

12:30 *Taking care of the couple and their fertility: the Billings Ovulation Method®*
Valeria VERSACE and Sara GRAMACCIONI

12:50 *Assessment of ovarian reserve in the search for pregnancy*
Paola VILLA

13:10 *Preserving fertility in women with oncological disease*
Giacomo CORRADO

13:30 Lunch break

SESSION III: PRECONCEPTION HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF INFERTILITY

15.00 *In the light of the Holy Scripture*
Rosalba MANES

Chairs: Maria Luisa DI PIETRO and Annamaria MEROLA

15:10 *HPV: implications for reproductive health*
Rosa Pasqualina DE VINCENZO

15:30 *Male microbiota and couple infertility for personalized medicine*
Giuseppe GRANDE

15:50 *Female microbiota: what role in infertility?*
Luca MASUCCI

16:10 *Lifestyle and Fertility. Preconception health: Pro Alpha Project*
Drieda ZAÇE and Tina PASCIUTO

16:30 *Infertility and STIs*
Carlo TORTI

16:50 Break

Chairs: Marco DE SANTIS and Paolo Angelo BONINI

17:10 *Microplastics and fertility*
Andrea URBANI

17:30 *Cervical mucus biomarkers: new perspectives*
Rita BONFIGLIO

17:50 *Effectiveness trials of the Billings Ovulation Method®: past and present*
Montserrat AYALA-RAMIREZ

18:10 *Prevention and education: the educational challenge*
Raffaella IAFRATE

18:30 *Knowledge of fertility and treatment of infertility: the voice of Associations*
Anna Laura ASTORRI,
Valeria FREZZOTTI and Alicia PASTOR