

NEW YORK  
ENCOUNTER X

# An “Impossible” January 12–14, 2018 Unity

Three-day public cultural event in the heart of New York City, offering opportunities for education, dialogue, and friendship

public discussions

presentations

exhibits

live performances

350 volunteers

We naturally yearn for unity and long to be part of a real community: life blossoms when it is shared.

And yet, we live in an age of fragmentation. At the social level, we suffer profound divisions among peoples and religions, and our country is ever more polarized along ideological lines, corroding our unity. At the personal level, we are often estranged from our communities, family members, and friends. When we discover that someone doesn't think the way we do, we feel an embarrassing distance, if not open hostility, that casts a shadow on the relationship. As a result, either we become angry or we avoid controversial issues altogether, and retreat into safe territories with like-minded people.

But the disunity we see around us often begins within ourselves. We are bombarded by images of what we are “supposed” to be, but they generally do not correspond to who we really are. In fact, our truest self seems to escape us. The full scope of our humanity, with all its vast and profound needs and desires, may suddenly emerge, elicited by memories, thoughts or events, but usually quickly fades, without lasting joy or real change. And unless our relationships are rooted in the common experience of such humanity, we don't even have real dialogue; we just chat, gossip, text or argue.

**In the end, the unity we long for seems impossible. But what if it is possible? How can it happen?**

“You know it well: you can't manage a thing; you're tired; you can't go on. And all at once you meet the gaze of someone in the crowd—a human gaze—and it's as if you had drawn near to a hidden divine presence. And everything suddenly becomes simpler.”

— Andrei Tarkovsky

Join us on January 12-14, 2018 for a weekend of public discussions, exhibits, and live performances to explore these questions together.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
January 12-14, 2018

**METROPOLITAN  
PAVILION**

125 West 18th Street  
New York, NY 10011

## TRANSPORTATION

The Metropolitan Pavilion is very close to 1, F, M subway lines.

N, Q, R, L, 4, 5, 6 subway lines stop at Union Square (12-minute walk).

## FOOD/DRINK

A food court on the ground floor of the Metropolitan Pavilion will offer a variety of food and drink during the event.

**EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC AND FREE OF CHARGE.  
NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

[www.newyorkencounter.org](http://www.newyorkencounter.org)

## Auditorium, Ground Floor

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 | 6:00 pm

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- **6:30 pm | The Gift of an “Impossible” Unity**  
The Encounter opens with music and a conversation with **John Bartlett**, retired FDNY fireman, and Sergeant **Conor McDonald**, NYPD, Patrol Service Bureau, son of the late NYPD Detective Steven McDonald
- **9:00 pm | “A Single Garment of Destiny”**  
The life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. in words, images, music, and dance with **Andrea Domenici**, **Philip Faconti**, and **St. Joseph High School Step Team**

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 | 9:30 am

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- **10:00 am | The Fundamental Economic Resource: The Human Person**  
A discussion on the relationship between integral human development and economy  
**Speakers:**
  - × **Christopher Barrett** | deputy dean, College of Business, Cornell University
  - × **Sara Sievers** | associate dean of policy and practice, Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame
  - × **Archbishop Silvano Tomasi** | Apostolic Nuncio  
Co-sponsored by The Kellogg Institute for International Studies
- **11:30 am | The Father: Who Is He?**  
The experience of being a father and having a father  
**Speakers:**
  - × **Dominic A. Aquila** | professor of history, University of St. Thomas, Houston
  - × **Camil Martinez** | PhD candidate in supply chain and logistics, University of Maryland
  - × **Paul Vitz** | professor emeritus of psychology at New York University
- **2:00 pm | An “Impossible” Beauty**  
A conversation on the Encounter’s theme  
**Speakers:**
  - × **Etsuro Sotoo** | sculptor
  - × **John Waters** | author
- **4:00 pm | “... Drawn Near to a Hidden Divine Presence ...” (Andrei Tarkovsky)**  
A face-to-face encounter with physician and inventor **Dr. Michael J. Brescia**, co-founder and executive medical director of Calvary Hospital
- **6:00 pm | “Out of Many, One”: Really?**  
A dialogue on shared bonds and ideals in today’s American society  
**Speakers:**
  - × **Amitai Etzioni** | professor, The George Washington University and author of *Happiness is the Wrong Metric* (Springer, 2018)
  - × **Mark Lilla** | professor of humanities, Columbia University
- **9:00 pm | Fatherhood**  
True stories of heartbreak, heroism and tenderness in a new musical/theatrical collaboration from **Jonathan Fields** and **Christopher Vath**. Original music for 10 instruments and vocalists. With fables by **Roberto Madonna**.  
Tickets: \$10/Open seating

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 | 8:30 am

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- **9:00 am | Holy Mass**  
Celebrated by **Seán Cardinal O’Malley**, OFM, Cap., Archbishop of Boston, with the **Choir of Communion and Liberation** directed by **Christopher Vath**
- **11:00 am | A Human Gaze, a History**  
Presentation of the biography of Father Luigi Giussani through eyewitness accounts, introduced by **Fr. Julián Carrón**, president of the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation  
**Speakers:**
  - × **Father Pigi Bernareggi** | missionary priest in Belo Horizonte, Brazil
  - × **Pier Alberto Bertazzi** | former director of the Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, State University of Milan, Italy
  - × **Rose Busingye** | founder of the International Meeting Point in Kampala, Uganda
  - × **Jonathan Fields** | musician
  - × **Shodo Habukawa** | (via telecast), professor at Koyasan University, Japan
  - × **Alberto Savorana** | journalist, author of *The Life of Luigi Giussani* (McGill, 2017)
- **2:00 pm | On Pilgrimage Toward Unity**  
The life of Dorothy Day  
**Speakers:**
  - × **Tom Cornell** | associate editor of *The Catholic Worker*
  - × **Timothy Cardinal Dolan** | Archbishop of New York
  - × **Margaret Laracy** | clinical psychologist and co-curator of the Encounter exhibit
- **4:00 pm | Abraham and the Birth of the “I”**  
Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim perspectives  
**Speakers:**
  - × **Sayyid Mohammad Baqir al-Kashmiri** | chairman of the Imam Mahdi Marjaeya Association
  - × **Archbishop Christophe Pierre** | Apostolic Nuncio to the United States
  - × **Joseph Weiler** | Joseph Straus Professor of Law, New York University
- **6:15 pm | A Gaze in the Crowd**  
Wrapping up the Encounter through great movie scenes, with **Deniz Demirer**, filmmaker, and concluding remarks by **Maurizio Maniscalco**, Encounter president
- **8:00 pm | A Song that Cannot Be Held Back**  
Final night of celebration and songs with the Encounter volunteers

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POETRY CONTEST AWARD CEREMONY  
Saturday, January 13 | 7:45 pm | 2nd Floor

SCHOOLS CONTEST AWARD CEREMONY  
Sunday, January 14 | 2:45 pm | Ground Floor

 Auditorium, Second Floor

## HARMONY: THE LANGUAGE OF UNITY

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

● **7:00 pm | How to Fall in Love with Poetry**

A presentation by

**Edward Hirsch** | poet and president of the John

Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation

**James Davis May** | poet

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

● **12:45 pm | "Let Me Feel the Lack"**

A discussion of the films of Terrence Malick with

**T.J. Berden** | producer

**Joe Bowen** | PhD candidate in chemistry, University of Nebraska

**Patrick Tomassi** | high school teacher

● **5:15 pm | The Power of ... We!**

A witness by **Sandeep Das**, musician, founder of HUM, and member of the Silk Road Ensemble Project, on how music inspires connections

## THE HUMAN ADVENTURE SERIES

PEOPLE AT WORK; THE WORKS OF A PEOPLE

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

● **12:45 pm | Love Without Boundaries**

Eyewitness accounts by

**Father Pigi Bernareggi** | missionary priest in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

**Rose Busingye** | founder of the International Meeting Point in Uganda

Co-sponsored by the American Association for Medicine and the Person

● **5:15 pm | Reconnecting Through Work and Education**

A witness by

**Efrain Hernandez** | associate director of ReConnect Brooklyn

**Passionist Father Jim O'Shea** | founder of ReConnect Brooklyn

Co-sponsored by the WorkCenter

● **8:00 pm | In the Middle of the Path of Our Life: The Divine Comedy for Ordinary People who Want to Live Extraordinary Lives**

A commentary by **Elizabeth Anderson**, a stay-at-home mom

Co-sponsored by the Well-Read Mom reading group

## EXHIBITS

 **5th Floor**

**Father Abraham's Tent: All Are Welcome**

A journey especially for children into the story of Abraham and his encounter with God

Presentation: January 12, 8:00 pm | 2nd Floor

**Surprise Encounters**

Stories of immigration, hospitality, and changed lives

Presentation: January 13, 3:15 pm | 2nd Floor

**A Catholic Paradox**

Life and words of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement

Presentation: January 14, 2:00 pm | Ground Floor  
at the event: **On Pilgrimage Toward Unity**

**Moments of Dignity**

A photo exhibit by **Joseph Weiler**

Presentation: January 14, 3:00 pm | 2nd Floor

 **Ground Floor**

**From My Life to Yours**

Life and works of Father Luigi Giussani, founder of Communion and Liberation

Presentation: January 14, 11:00 am | Ground Floor  
at the event: **A Human Gaze, A History**

**GUIDED TOURS**

Guided tours for each exhibit will be available every day. Please check the Encounter's website for scheduled tour times.