

POPE LEO XIV AND ANDREA BOCELLI JOIN TOGETHER IN A HISTORIC “CANTICLE OF PEACE” WITH THE SUPPORT OF BANVELCA

164 Young People from Vulnerable Communities Took Part in an Encounter of Music,
Spirituality and Fellowship



Prayer and Fraternity Gathering “Canticle of Peace” — Photo Credit: Vatican Media

Pope Leo XIV took part in the [“Canticle of Peace”](#) prayer and fraternity gathering at Borgo Laudato Si’, in the Pontifical Gardens of Castel Gandolfo, alongside **Andrea Bocelli** and the [ABF Voices Choir](#): *“The whole world is not enough to quench your thirst for meaning and happiness.”*

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-07/pope-music-leads-us-to-god-concert-castel-gandolfo-choir.html>

Banvelca Foundation: Culture and Philanthropy as Instruments of Connection



Melanie Herrera Velutini and Julio Herrera Velutini greeting Pope Leo XIV. Photo Credit: Banvelca

For **Melanie Herrera Velutini**, President of the [Banvelca Foundation](#), *“Culture has an extraordinary ability to create spaces for connection where differences exist. Supporting an initiative that brings together young people from different backgrounds through music and a message of peace directly reflects the vision of the Banvelca Foundation, which focuses on preserving cultural heritage, promoting education, and using art as a way to build bridges.”*



Andrea Bocelli performs “*Amazing Grace*” with the ABF Voices Choir — Photo Credit: Vatican Media

The initiative, organized by the **Laudato Si’ Higher Education Center** and the **Andrea Bocelli Foundation**, represented by the tenor himself, is part of the celebrations marking the eighth centenary of the death of **St. Francis of Assisi**.

Herrera Velutini highlighted the significance of bringing together new generations from profoundly different backgrounds. *“Listening to young people whose stories have been shaped by such different circumstances reminds us that culture can provide common ground. That is precisely the kind of program we want to support as a Foundation and as a family.”*



Photo Credit: Vatican Media

Prayer and Fraternity Gathering “Canticle of Peace”

For the participants of **ABF Voices**, the gathering marked the culmination of ten days of fellowship, training, and artistic collaboration. The day concluded with the Lord’s Prayer, the exchange of the sign of peace, the Apostolic Blessing, and a performance of “*Amazing Grace*” by Bocelli himself together with the choir.

*“Each voice carries a story, a heritage, and a hope,” said **Maestro Andrea Bocelli**, founder of ABF. “When so many voices come together, from distant places and shaped by such diverse life experiences, something happens that goes beyond singing: the possibility of recognizing one another, listening to one another, and feeling less distant from each other. Music has that gift. It does not erase differences; rather, it transforms them into harmony.”*



Crédito Foto: Banvelca

The Andrea Bocelli Foundation's Commitment

The Pontiff's final message was addressed to the **Andrea Bocelli Foundation**, which is committed to supporting young people facing educational and social disadvantages. *"Through the power of music, you are contributing to the Church's mission of promoting the integral development of every person in service of the common good. May God bless your efforts."*



Pope Leo XIV speaking at the “Canticle of Peace” prayer and fraternity gathering — Photo Credit: Banvelca