



Lectio magistralis by H.E. Archbishop Fisichella at Fol in Fest 2026 in Piacenza



On 10 September, at the Piacenza campus of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, the Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, H.E. Archbishop Rino Fisichella, delivered a *lectio magistralis* entitled “**Man’s Ascent to Paradise.**”

The event, held in the University’s Conference Hall, marked the conclusion of **Fol in Fest 2026**, dedicated to the theme “**Training for the Ascent. The Mountain between Paradise and Hell.**”

In his lecture, H.E. Archbishop Fisichella offered **a reflection on the present time**, marked by profound transformations and growing disorientation, highlighting the need for vigilance and humility.

Through the metaphor of **Dante’s Purgatory**, the Pro-Prefect presented our time as a journey of transformation and hope: “Purgatory reminds us that change is possible and that hope never abandons us.” The mountain thus becomes an image of the *homo viator*, called to recognize his own limitations and, precisely through them, to rise again and continue towards a higher goal.

Recalling the words with which Dante concludes the second *Cantica* — “*pure and ready to rise to the stars*” — Archbishop Fisichella emphasized the need, for contemporary humanity, to rediscover the strength to look upwards, beyond oneself, towards a hope capable of giving direction to the present and opening the way to fulfilment.