

# Crossing the Divide

February 14–16, 2020

Metropolitan Pavilion  
125 W 18th St, NYC

2020

NEW YORK  
ENCOUNTER



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

## PROGRAM 2020

**These days we live as if enclosed in shells of ideology.** They divide us from reality, from each other and from ourselves. We proclaim the value of diversity, but can only talk to those who share our views. We say we love justice, but use it as a weapon against our enemies. We venerate science, but pick and choose its results along party lines. And when our ideologies fail to deliver, we are left alone, angry and afraid.

**However, some events still manage to break through these shells.** They can be tragic, like a natural disaster or a school shooting, or beautiful, like a new love or the birth of a child. Then, for a moment, we find ourselves in wonder...more aware...united. These events open our eyes and awaken something in us: nostalgia, thirst for life, a cry for meaning. And sometimes we discover that the seemingly unbridgeable distance between people—be they family, coworkers, or even strangers on the subway—is actually paper-thin.

We do not want to waste these moments!

**And yet, left to our own devices, we retreat again into the shells of our tribal ideologies.** These experiences, which made us see things differently, quickly decay, and everything gets twisted to fit our preconceptions.

**In the end, is there anything that lasts? What can help us hold on to these experiences? Is there someone, somewhere, who lives fully and makes us want more from life? In short, a true friend?**

We climbed up, he first and I behind him,  
far enough to see, through a round opening,  
a few of those fair things the heavens bear.  
Then we came forth, to see again the stars.

—Dante, *Inferno*, Canto XXXIV

Join us on February 14–16, 2020, for a weekend of public discussions, exhibits and live performances to delve into these questions with friends.

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

New York Encounter is an annual three-day public cultural event in the heart of New York City, offering opportunities for education, dialogue, and friendship.

All New York Encounter events are free and open to the public.

No registration is required.



## Auditorium, Main Floor

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | 6:00 pm

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● **6:30 pm** | **"We climbed up, he first and I behind him .... To see again the stars" (Dante)**

Music and staged readings from *The Divine Comedy* with **Giuseppe Mazzotta**, Sterling Professor of Humanities for Italian at Yale University, and welcoming remarks by **Seán Cardinal Patrick O'Malley, OFM**, archbishop of Boston

● **9:00 pm** | **The Girl from Hong Kong**

A journey across America in words, music, and images by Martina Saltamacchia, José Medina, TJ Berden, Michele Averchi, and Jonathan Ghaly. Music by Jonathan Fields and Christopher Vath. Images by Lee Jeffries, Randy Halverson, and Patrick Witty.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 | 9:30 am

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● **10:00 am** | **A Place for Life**

Witnesses on the enduring importance of family

**Speakers:**

- × **J. D. Flynn** | editor-in-chief, Catholic News Agency
- × **Sarah Hemminger** | founder and CEO of Thread
- × **Matteo Stohlman** | software engineer in a DC real estate startup

● **11:30 am** | **Working in an Inclusive Economy**

Young workers and entrepreneurs discuss Pope Francis' economic vision

**Speakers:**

- × **Anujeet Sareen** | portfolio manager, Brandywine Global
- × **Giorgio Vittadini** | professor of statistics at the University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy

● **2:00 pm** | **Bridging the Divide in the Most Unlikely of Places**

A conversation on reconciliation and going over apparently un-crossable divides

**Speakers:**

- × **Jeanne Bishop** | Cook County Public Defender
- × **Fr. George Williams** | chaplain for San Quentin State Prison death row

● **4:00 pm** | **In Search of the Other America**

**Speakers:**

- × **Chris Arnade** | writer and photographer
- × **Patrick Deneen** | professor of political science and constitutional studies at the University of Notre Dame

● **6:00 pm** | **Ideals vs. Ideologies in Politics. A Lost Battle?**

A conversation on the direction of American politics

**Speakers:**

- × **Sohrab Ahmari** | op-ed editor, *New York Post*
- × **Christine Emba** | columnist, *The Washington Post*

● **9:00 pm** | **Classical Music and Jazz ... Two Sides of the Same Coin**

A concert with **Andrea Domenici**, jazz pianist, and **Radoslaw Jasik**, classical pianist

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 | 8:30 am

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● **9:00 am** | **Memorial Mass for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr. Luigi Giussani's death**

Celebrated by **Archbishop Christophe Pierre**, apostolic nuncio to the United States, with the choir of **Communion and Liberation** directed by **Sebastian Modarelli**

● **11:00 am** | **What Can Free Us from Ideology?**

A conversation on the Encounter's theme in light of *Where is God?: Christian Faith in the Time of Great Uncertainty* (McGill-Queen's University Press) by Fr. Julián Carrón

**Speakers:**

- × **Fr. Julián Carrón** | president of the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation
- × **Ami Dar** | founder and executive director of Idealist.org
- × **Aaron Riches** | professor of theology at Benedictine College

● **2:00 pm** | **A Paper-Thin Distance**

How the discovery of our common humanity can shatter racial ideology

**Speakers:**

- × **Daryl Davis** | musician and public speaker
- × **Christian Picciolini** | author and founder of the Free Radical Projects global network

● **4:00 pm** | **Our Tears Are the Same**

An Israeli and a Palestinian share their stories of reconciliation

**Speakers:**

- × **Bassam Aramin** | international spokesperson, The Parents Circle Families Forum
- × **Robi Damelin** | director of international relations, The Parents Circle Families Forum

● **5:30 pm** | **Someone, Somewhere, Who Lived Fully**

Witnesses on the martyrdom of 40 Burundians killed by Hutu rebels and 21 Copts killed by ISIS extremists

**Speakers:**

- × **Fr. Zacharie Bukuru** | Benedictine monk in Buta, Burundi
- × **His Grace Anba David** | bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of New York and New England
- × **Rev. Marcel Uwizeza, SJ** | Rwandan genocide survivor

● **7:30 pm** | **All This Starry Sky ... That Makes Me Dream**

Final night of celebration and songs with the Encounter volunteers

## EXHIBITS

📍 **5<sup>th</sup> Floor**

### **Crossing the Divide: From Ideology to Wonder**

Exhibit on the Encounter's theme

Presentation: Friday, February 14, 7:45 pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### **"His seeing caused me to begin to see":**

#### **Looking at Race and Reality with James Baldwin**

Exhibit on James Baldwin, novelist, playwright, and activist

Presentation: Friday, February 14, 8:15 pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### **"A human being is a remarkable thing"**

Exhibit on the wartime writings of Dutch-Jewish woman Etty Hillesum (1941-1943)

Presentation: Saturday, February 15, 1:15 pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### **Humans and Machines: Behind the Curtains of Artificial Intelligence**

Exhibit on Artificial Intelligence

Presentation: Saturday, February 15, 3:00 pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

📍 **Main Floor**

### **Giussani in America**

Exhibit on Fr. Luigi Giussani, founder of Communion and Liberation

Presentation: Saturday, February 15, 12:45 pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### **GUIDED TOURS OF EXHIBITS**

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

## POETRY CONTEST AWARD CEREMONY

Saturday, February 15, 8:00 pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor



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📍 **2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium**

# ACROSS THE DIVIDE series

## The Power of Human Experience

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

#### ● 5:15 pm | **SOMOS: Doctors on the Front Line** **Speakers:**

- × **Mario Paredes** | chief executive officer of Somos Community Care
- × **Ricardo Rivera** | chief development officer of Somos Community Care

#### ● 7:15 pm | **Making Poetry Sing: Crossing the Divide between Poet and Audience**

A presentation on poetry by **Dana Gioia**, poet; followed by the Poetry Contest Award Ceremony

#### ● 8:15 pm | **From the Street to the Backyard** **Speakers:**

- × **Alberto Carignano** | post-doctoral fellow, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Washington
- × **Rex Hohlbein** | founder of Facing Homelessness Seattle and the BLOCK Project

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

#### ● 12:45 pm | **From Dereliction to a Life of Luminous Love. The Journey of the Late Frank Simmonds** **Speakers:**

- × **Rita A. Simmonds** | wife and biographer
- × **Lawrence E. Sullivan** | professor emeritus of theology and comparative world religions at the University of Notre Dame

#### ● 3:15 pm | **Unafraid of the Divide** **Speakers:**

- × **Sr. Mariae Agnus Dei, SV** | Sisters of Life
- × **Sr. Virginia Joy, SV** | Sisters of Life
- × **Fr. Richard Veras** | director of pastoral formation at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, NY