2nd Laudato si’: Nature, Society, Markets Roundtable
The Emerging Alignment of Finance with Spiritual and Ethical Considerations
December 3, 2018, New York City
Baker & McKenzie offices, 452 5th Avenue, at 40th St., NYC

Agenda, Schedule, Background

Agenda / Topics

For our second Roundtable on Laudato si’: Nature Society Markets, we will focus on 3 topics drawn from our initial conversation last October:

1. Actualizing the Vision of the Laudato si’ in the Finance Sector: various topics, including meeting the climate change investment challenge, and designing a Laudato si’ bank: Moderated by Bryan Garcia, President and CEO, Connecticut Green Bank, and Richard Kauffman, Chairman of Energy and Finance, Office of the Governor, The State of New York; Remarks by Séamus Finn, OMI, Chair, Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility; Leslie Parker, Founder Director, REIL

2. Ethics and Finance and Markets: Moderated by Professor Adela Gondek, Columbia University; Remarks by Peter Goldmark, Former President, Rockefeller Foundation, former Chairman and CEO, International Herald Tribune; Bruce Schlein, Director of Community Redevelopment Act Business Strategy, Citi; Right Reverend Pierre Whalon, Bishop in Charge, Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

3. Sustainable Finance and Behavior: Moderated by Professor Ken Gillingham, Yale University; Remarks by Rey Ramsey Founder & CEO Centri Capital, Morgan Stanley Institute for Sustainable Investing Advisory Board; Stephen Freedman, Former Head of Sustainable Investment Solutions, UBS Wealth Management Solutions; Adjunct Assistant Professor, NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service

The opening scene setting for each topic will be followed by an hour or so discussion among all.

There will be opening presentations by Mary Evelyn Tucker, Director, Forum on Religion and Ecology, Yale University, on the Laudato si’; and by Reverend Séamus Finn, Chair, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, on the Vatican’s work on finance.

Schedule

8 30        Continental Breakfast available

9 to 9 45    Roundtable Start: Welcome and Introductions

9 45 to 10 25
Mary Evelyn Tucker on The Laudato si’
Séamus Finn on Vatican and Finance
Background

Frank dialogue between finance, interfaith leadership and civil society plays an important role as the global community tries to create a new framework of thought and action in an interdependent world. This is REIL’s 2nd convening on the Spiritual and Ethical Dimensions of Finance.

The June 2015 Papal Encyclical, Laudato si’: On Care for Our Common Home, is addressed to all concerned with creating a just and environmentally sustainable society.

One of the main messages of the Encyclical is that society and the environment deteriorate or advance together. It articulates the connection between the two, between environmental and social justice, and the importance of that connection. The message of this historic document provides common ground from which to change the game and the terms of the game.

The purpose of the REIL gathering is to follow up on last year’s deliberative discussion among REIL’s interdisciplinary experts from critical sectors - academe, policymakers, finance, foundations, interfaith leaders - on the spiritual dimensions of finance and on what lessons on transforming markets and finance can be drawn from the Encyclical.

What are the ways in which the business and finance community can actualize the vision presented in Laudato si’? Are there messages and ideas from business and finance that they wish to share on the subject of markets and capitalism as it relates to the moral, ethical and scientific content of the Encyclical and similar documents of others faiths and spiritualities?

This roundtable is part of our work on “Mainstreaming the Encyclical” and is REIL’s 6th gathering drawing on the Encyclical. The first two were at Notre Dame de Paris, December 7, 2015, during COP21, and at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, at the Vatican, on November 2, 2016. http://www.pas.va/content/accademia/en/events/2016/roundtable.html