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1. Scene setter

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**MEETING WITH THE HOLY SEE SECRETARY OF STATE
HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN
28 OCTOBER 2020**

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28 OCTOBER 2020**

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f. Digital

- The strength of the European approach to digital transition is the focus on enhancing democratic values and respect for fundamental rights. Every citizen should have equal access as a fair chance to make the most of the opportunities offered by new technologies.
- On artificial intelligence the EU wants to build international alliances around shared values. One example is the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence. In February, the Commission published its vision in a White Paper, laying out a human-centric approach.

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5. Background

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f. Digital

The Holy See views on digital were recently noted in the new Papal Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' of 3 October 2020: *Digital campaigns of hatred and destruction, for their part, are not – as some would have us believe – a positive*



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form of mutual support, but simply an association of individuals united against a perceived common enemy. Digital media can also expose people to the risk of addiction, isolation and a gradual loss of contact with concrete reality, blocking the development of authentic interpersonal relationships. They lack the physical gestures, facial expressions, moments of silence, body language and even the smells, the trembling of hands, the blushes and perspiration that speak to us and are a part of human communication. Digital relationships, which do not demand the slow and gradual cultivation of friendships, stable interaction or the building of a consensus that matures over time, have the appearance of sociability. Yet they do not really build community; instead, they tend to disguise and expand the very individualism that finds expression in xenophobia and in contempt for the vulnerable. Digital connectivity is not enough to build bridges. It is not capable of uniting humanity.”

[REDACTED]

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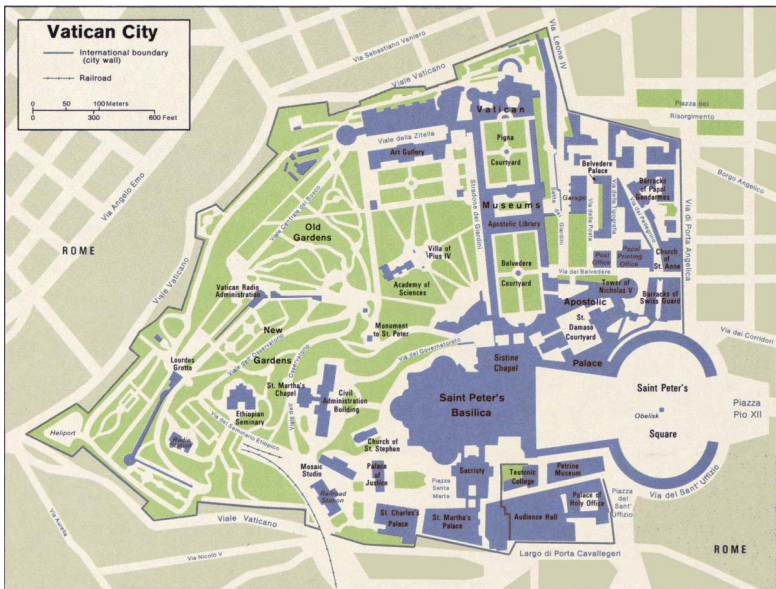


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