

## PRESS RELEASE

## THE JUBILEE OF TEENAGERS STARTS TODAY, ACEA'S COMMITMENT IN LINE WITH POPE FRANCIS' LEGACY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER

Today at EUR, the Via Lucis prayer in remembrance of the Holy Father

Rome, 25 April 2025 – ACEA's commitment – as the first water operator in Italy and the second largest in Europe – to support the Jubilee of Teenagers, underway in Rome until 27 April, starts today. This commitment aligns with Pope Francis' legacy on the theme of natural resource protection during the days of the final farewell to a great pontiff.

The event starts today at 18:00 on the steps of the Church of Saint Peter and Paul in EUR, where 20,000 young people from all the parishes of Rome and the Italian dioceses are expected to pray together in memory of Bergoglio.

"Pope Francis has taught us the values and the right sensitivity to follow for the sustainable and responsible management of an essential good such as water" – states **Barbara Marinali**, President of Acea – "Over these days, ACEA will raise awareness among thousands of young pilgrims who have come to the capital, guiding them in discovering their role as 'guardians of water'".

"During this moment of grief, we must start with the awareness of the importance of water protection, in line with the message of Pope Francis. This is the only possible way to face the water transition, which is essential for building our future as citizens, ensuring the protection of this precious resource, a synonym for economic development and well-being, as well as a pillar of public health", stated **Fabrizio Palermo**, CEO of ACEA.

In the places where the main events of the Jubilee of Teenagers will be held, ACEA will be present and distribute 10,000 bottles of water and over 170,000 litres of water to young pilgrims through 17 water trucks. At the water distribution points, posters with a QR code linking to <a href="https://www.gruppoacea.it/educazione-idrica-per-giubileo-adolescenti">https://www.gruppoacea.it/educazione-idrica-per-giubileo-adolescenti</a> will be available to inform them about the water education program currently underway in Italian schools, designed for the many young people attending the Jubilee. The project was launched through the Memorandum of Understanding signed by ACEA and the Ministry of Education and Merit, with the shared goal of promoting a culture of water conservation and environmental protection. Through another QR code, it will be possible to download the Acquea APP, developed by the ACEA Group to help users locate the nearest of Rome's 3,500 geolocated water points - fountains, nasoni, or ACEA Water Houses - where they can quench their thirst.

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