



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Letter, N. 10 (14 June 2016)

Courtyards of the Gentiles in Brazil

Rio de Janeiro and Curitiba hosted a series of events 6-13 April with the presence of Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi and Bishop Carlos Azevedo. Dialogues and meetings under titles such “Ethics and Transcendence” and “Ethics and Sustainability” encouraged participants to ask themselves “where do your ethics come from?” The conversations were animated by public intellectuals but were open to children too and while some moments took place in the theatre (pictured) others were in the university setting allowing a dialogue focussed on science and faith. As part of a wider ongoing Latin American programme, Cardinal Ravasi gave some talks to the bishops at Aparecida and received a *laurea honoris causa*. All the texts are available [here on our website](#).



Regenerative Medicine



The International Conference on the progress of Regenerative Medicine and its cultural impact was held in the Vatican, April 28-30. An exclusive international event, it gathered the world's leading cell therapy scientists, physicians, patients, ethicists and leaders of faith, government and philanthropy to discuss the latest therapy breakthroughs encouraging hope for the future. Moderated by US TV personalities, the focus was on pediatric cancers and rare genetic diseases, sometimes called orphan diseases. Among the key testimonials, US Vice President Joe Biden, Robin Roberts (pictured) and Katie Couric, Max Gomez and David Evans, also known as rock group U2's “The Edge”. Cardinal Ravasi introduced them to Pope Francis who appealed for more research, greater access, and improved collaboration.

- The Holy See's Hospital *Bambino Gesù* also held similar convention on the theme “Being Born Sick (*Nascere malati*) 4 May at which Cardinal Ravasi was a keynote speaker.

Culture on the train



"They're not dangerous, they're in danger!" These words came from the pen of the children of the school of Vibo Marina, in Calabria and were repeated by Pope Francis when he met the annual children's train organised by our Courtyard of the Gentiles, 28 May. This year it carried some 500 children from Calabria engulfed in the migrant crisis and had as a theme "Carried by Waves". Other children engaged in a ministry of welcome told how they are busy making space for their new friends in the dialogue of life, in their classrooms and playgrounds, orchestras and soccer teams.

A second train, an historical one, also arrived with the Italian Minister for Cultural Goods, Dario Franceschini who dialogued with Cardinal Ravasi in the Vatican on “Beauty will save the world, let us save Beauty”, 21 May.



The Engagements of the Superiors



The President, Cardinal Ravasi visited Mr Thomas Bach at the International Olympic Committee's Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. He spoke to ambassadors of Latin American cultures and directors of German Schools, he spoke at a press conference for the Paralympic Games, held a conference at the Italian *Corte dei Conti* with Raffaele Cantone. He gave a conference for the Jubilee of Priests and participated in the commemorations for former

member Bishop Zycinski. He was in Lecco for the Courtyard of the Gentiles on "Innocent Pain", and addressed the board of directors of Georgetown University during their visit to Rome. He was awarded the prestigious *Penna d'oro* by the Italian Government.

The Delegate, Mons. Azevedo, was in Tucuman Argentina for a Courtyard of the Gentiles. He opened two museums dedicated to St Martin in Hungary, and a contemporary art exhibition extending over five churches in Mallorca, Spain marking 700 years since the death of Blessed Ramon Llull. He also presented in Portugal his work *Estudos de iconografia cristá*.

The Secretary Adjunct, Mons. Tighe spoke to the board of Notre-Dame University and at the Press Conference for the Vatican performance of Hamlet by the Globe Theatre.



The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca spoke at the press conference presenting the 2nd Tour of Light by the St Peter's Cricket Club, otherwise known as the Vatican XI, was present at the final of the Clericus Cup, and at a Press conference on Volunteers in Sport organised by the CSI and Coni. He gave an interview to Vatican Radio marking the UN's Day for Sport, 6 April.

Visitors



A group of Russian Orthodox Priests, the ambassadors of Georgia and Peru, the ministers for culture of Romania and Nigeria, the US Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, the Chesterton Society, the Vatican's Patrons of the Arts, the authorities of the *Accademia di Santa Cecilia*, plus tennis player Milos Raonic, representatives of Juventus soccer club and Italian businessman Cordero di Montezemolo discussing sporting matters. Representatives of the CEI and of the Archdiocese of Milan visited for the concluding act of the Holy See's Pavillion at the EXPO Milano 2015 (the prize award from BIE is pictured).

In collaboration:

- A *Roundtable* was organised in collaboration with the Embassy of Hungary to the Holy See on the figure of **St Martin of Tours**: he was proposed as a European Personality, an example and reference point for events and celebrations, including cultural itineraries and pilgrimages, 1700 years after his birth. (9 May)
- A *Study Day* was organised in collaboration with the LUISS university to reflect on **altruism as a key element of the economic system**. (5 May)

Save the Dates:

"Sport at the Service of Humanity", a first Global Conference on Sport and Faith in the Vatican planned 5-7 October 2016.

Further material on all these stories can be found in our review Cultures and Faith, published three times a year, on our website www.cultura.va, and on social media.