

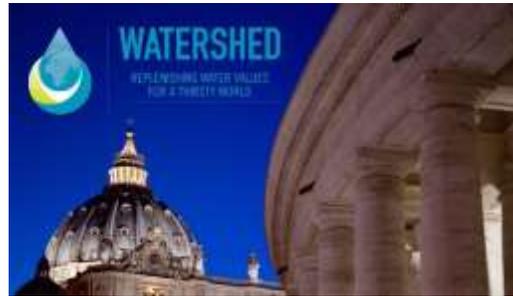


PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Letter, N. 15 (22 June 2017)

Watershed: Replenishing Water Values for a Thirsty World

A reflection on values and water under the auspices of the Dicastery in partnership with the Club of Rome and others took place in the Vatican, 21-23 March to raise awareness about the need to protect water. A workshop and a public event involved many government institutions and personalities.



Continuing in the scientific vein, on 4 April, a high-level conference *The Future of Humanity Through the Lens of Medical Science* was hosted at the Nobile Collegio Chimico Farmaceutico di Roma with Nobel prize winner Mario Capecchi. Keynote speeches were given by Cardinal Ravasi, Giuseppe Remuzzi and Richard Horton, Editor of *The Lancet*. [See the [*Rassegna Stampa*](#)]

Courtyards of the Gentiles

The diffusion of this initiative continues apace and the main recent event, “Small Travellers, Great Ambassadors” was the annual Children’s Train bringing into the Vatican those suffering the effects of the Italian earthquakes who were delighted to meet Pope Francis. It had the theme “Custodians of the Earth” and was presented to the press by Pietro Grasso, President of the Senate and the president of the Italian geophysical and volcanology institute. Also significant were the Courtyards “Arrogance and Fear: dignity of women against violence” and “Laicity and Spirituality” at the Archive of the Quirinale. Many others have taken place, including at parish level. A Scientific Committee is active as is a Board of Governance, while a publication celebrating Pope Benedict’s Regensburg address is in preparation.



Festivals, Fayres and Exhibitions

Numerous events promoting the dialogue of Faith and Culture through the Arts receive our input, stimulus or even patronage. A few examples: an event at Rome’s MAXXI on “Prisons, Justice, and Rights” with our Courtyard of the Gentiles. An exhibition of Manzù at Castel Sant’Angelo on *Dialogues with Spirituality*. Further afield, Bishop Tighe opened an exhibition *Views on Rome* in a diocesan museum in Paderborn, Germany, while Mons. Piechota visited Kielce, Poland, for the awarding of the medals “*Per artem ad Deum*” to scientist Fr Michal Heller, photographer Claudia Henzler and sociologist Fr Tomas Halik. We also learnt that the Glasgow Art Festival “LentFest” achieved its tenth year of activity. Looking forward, plans are developing for the Dicastery to lead the Holy See to the 16th Biennale of Architecture in Venice in 2018.



The Engagements of the Superiors

Cardinal Ravasi was present in Milan to welcome Pope Francis to his home diocese and his writings contributed to awareness of Italian priests Frs Milani and Balducci. He inaugurated the restoration of the Catacombs of Domitilla and its new Museum and gave numerous conferences in Rome, Padova, Florence, Bologna and Naples. With a Dante Lecture he concluded his period as President of the Casa Dante. He was nominated member of the Turin Academy “Albertina”, and spoke to the Assembly of Federmanager, the Italian business community. He was also on hand to introduce the Huntington’s Disease community to the Vatican.

The Bishop Delegate Carlos Azevedo announces that the Acts of the Conference on Sacred Music are being proofread. He has published the fruits of some research in the Vatican Secret Archives in the popular volume “Fátima – Das visões dos pastorinhos à visão cristã” and given a number of interviews. He also addressed the Portuguese Academy on the Fonti di Fatima and was in Santiago de Compostella for a talk on pilgrimages to Fatima. He spoke at an international study day on *What Identity for Ecclesiastical Museums?* organised at the Gregorian University.

Bishop Barthélemy Adoukonou spoke at a Conference on Christian Theology in Africa organised by the University of Notre Dame - Rome with a talk on “Anthropology in African Theology Today” and he addressed a meeting of Carità Politica talking about his African perspective on the Dicastery.

Bishop Paul Tighe was in Georgetown, Washington speaking on *How Culture Shapes Economy* continuing the cooperation with Georgetown University and in Toronto, Canada for a conference on *Contemporary Art and Faith*. He was in New Orleans reflecting with the local church on the cultural effects of digitalisation, and with the Undersecretary Msgr. Melchor Sanchez de Toca was in Villanova, Pennsylvania for the second event in the series on *Sport at the Service of Humanity*. The latter also spoke at an event on sport #withRefugees in Barcellona.

Consultative Bodies

The Women’s Consultation Group was presented to the press, met with Women Parliamentarians from Latin America, and with the *Cathedra for Women* of Valencia University.

There are now plans to establish a Youth Consultation Group.

Visitors included a number of bishops in their *ad limina*: Haiti (19 June), Panama (5 June), Guatemala (May 22), Peru (15 May), Quebec (10 May), Cuba (27 April), El Salvador (23 March), the Ambassadors of Romania, Benin, South Africa, Lithuania, Bolivia, Sweden, while official delegations came from Thailand, Russia, Taiwan, Iraq and the Russian Orthodox authorities. Among many other visitors, by example, we mention Card. Jozef De Kesel, U.S. Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities, singer Suor Cristina, Prof. Pio Baldi, new president of the Pontifical Academy Virtuosi al Pantheon, and a delegation from the Chapecoense football club.

Save the Dates:

The Via Pacis, 17 September 2017, A Half Marathon for Peace: Rome.

Embassy of Italy, 6 July 2017, a Courtyard “Artificial Intelligence: Ethical Challenge?”

Plenary Assembly, 15-18 November 2017. The Future of Humanity - Challenges to Anthropology.



The Review: The forthcoming edition carries articles on Pre-Columbian Cultures and news about encounters on Liturgy and Architecture (Vicenza), An Arctic Summit (Prague), the Human Technopole Research Area in Milan’s Expo area, Theological reflections at Bose, and more besides.

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.