



# PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

*What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture*  
Circular Newsletter, N. 16 (10 October 2017)

## Plenary Assembly 2017

Preparations are in full swing for the 15-18 November 2017 gathering of our Members and Consultors for the Plenary Assembly with the theme *The Future of Humanity: New Challenges to Anthropology*.

The meeting will have sessions on Anthropological Foundations, Medicine and Genetics, Neurosciences, and Artificial Intelligence.



**FUTURE OF HUMANITY**  
PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE  
PLENARY ASSEMBLY 2017

## Personnel Changes

Bishop Barthélemy Adoukonou has completed his service as Secretary to the Dicastery and has now returned to Benin to become the director of the *Laboratoire d'anthropologie du sage intellectuel communautaire*. Various talks he gave over the years are posted [here](#) including the homily at his Mass of thanksgiving (pictured).

Monsignor Pasquale Iacobone has been nominated Secretary of the Pontifical Commission of Sacred Archaeology.

We wish them both well in their future ministries.



**The Rome Half Marathon “Via Pacis”** for Peace and Interreligious Dialogue took place Sunday, 17 September spreading the message “No to violence, No to racism, No to discrimination.” Thousands of runners completed an ideal ring between St. Peter’s, the Synagogue, the Mosque, Protestant and Orthodox churches and other Roman religious symbols, such as the Stadium and the Ara Pacis.

## Music

The Acts have already been published of the international conference organized by the Dicastery 3-5 March 2017 titled *Church and Culture: 50 years after the Instruction “Musicam Sacram.”* There were over 350 musicians, liturgists and pastoralists, composers and conductors, educators, musicologists, and theologians in attendance reflecting on the actual state of today’s music all around the world.

The texts, in their original languages, are contained in the volume published by Aracne ([www.aracneeditrice.it](http://www.aracneeditrice.it)) as a book or e-book: ISBN: 978-88-255-0486-6.



## Other Engagements of the Superiors

The President, Cardinal Ravasi visited Fatima (23-24 June) and Spoleto (8 July). He received a Laurea h.c. in jurisprudence from Reggio Calabria where the rectors of Italian universities gathered to promote a culture of legality and inaugurate the diocesan library and museum (6-8 September). He spoke about Odysseus and Abraham at the Courtyard of Assisi on the theme of Voyage and dialogued with the Italian Home Affairs Minister on the theme of immigration and welcoming (14-17 September).

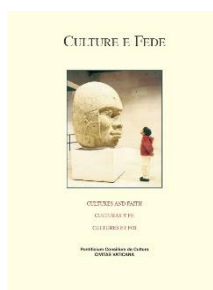
The Delegate, Mons. Azevedo was keynote speaker at the Italian National Convention of the Association on Ecclesiastical Archivists and visited the Diocese of Beira, Mozambique where he delivered a study on Dom Sebastio Soares de Resende's Episcopal Munus and his contribution to the Second Vatican Council.

The Secretary Adjunct, Mons. Tighe gave a keynote address at the annual [Gathering of Pastoral Theologians](#) of German speaking countries in Augsburg (12-14 September) entitled "Sharing the Good News in a Digital Culture: Mission in a 'new continent'." He was a guest speaker at the annual conference of the Altius Society at Oxford (29 Sept-1 Oct.) with the topic of: *The Future of Communication*.

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca attended the Sport at the Service of Humanity conference at Villanova University (7-8 July) and an anti-match fixing meeting in Rome (27 September). He organised and ran in the Rome Half Marathon VIA PACIS (17 September).

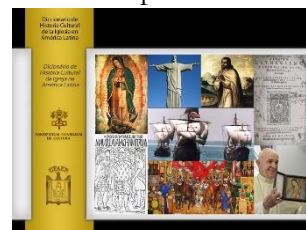
## Visitors

Visitors included a number episcopal conferences in *ad liminas*: Honduras (4 September), Nicaragua (11 September), Bolivia (18 September), Ecuador (28 September). Ambassadors of Lithuania, Italy and Russia, a representative of the Albanian Embassy, and the Head of the Chancellery of the Polish Prime Minister, Beata Kempa were also among visitors as were representatives of Scholas Occurrentes, the mayor and the managers of the Chapecoense futbol team, and the Argentina section of the Sport at the Service of Humanity Association.



Vol. XXV 2017 N.2 of the Dicastery's journal **Cultures and Faith** was published with its focus on Pre-Columbian Cultures containing papers on Sister Juana Ines de la Cruz's "Loa para el auto sacramental *El Divino Nariso*," Pope Clemente VIII's "Cum Sicut Accepimus," Koiné 2017, the Sport at the Service of Humanity Conference, the catacombs of Domitilla, the Children's Train, and more.

Meanwhile the Dicastery continues to contribute to the development of the *Diccionario de Historia Cultural de la Iglesia en América Latina*: [www.dbial.org](http://www.dbial.org)



## Varia:

- Key Courtyards of the Gentiles focused Artificial Intelligence, 6 July and 5 September, at the Italian Embassy to the Holy See and on *Vedenti-Veggenti* 3-4 October at the Palazzo del Laterano.

## Save the Dates:

Plenary Assembly, 15-18 November 2017. The Future of Humanity: Challenges to Anthropology (By invitation only).

A play entitled *The 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment – Kill the One Who Doesn't Love You*, 25 November 2017, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women produced by a theater company working with the Youth Section of the Courtyard of the Gentiles.

Fourth International Vatican Conference, 26-28 April 2018. Global Health Care Initiative: Prevent, Repair, Cure and Prepare for the Future! (By invitation only).

*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](http://www.cultura.va), and on social media.*

