



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Newsletter, N. 17 (2 February 2018)

Venice *Biennale Architettura*



(26 May – 25 Nov).

After the 2013-15 experiences at the *Biennale Arte*, the Holy See has announced it participates in 2018 for the first time at the Venice *Biennale Architettura* with a pavilion spread through the picturesque wood on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore. Promoted by Cardinal Ravasi and curated by Francesco Dal Co and Micol Forti, the project is inspired by Gunnar Asplund's 1920 Woodland Chapel in the cemetery of Stockholm. Ten chapels by major architects will be built before being reused after the exhibition. The surrounding natural space will be protected and respected

Visitors

Visitors have included: Bishops of Uruguay in their *ad limina*; the vice-minister for Culture from Slovenia and the ambassadors from Azerbaijan, Serbia, Slovenia, Portugal and the outgoing ambassador of Korea; delegations from the Fayre of Kielce (Poland), the International Military Apostolate, the *Mercedari*, the Association of Italian Bookshops, and the San Francisco Giants; Christine Roche from Unesco's Confederation of International Catholic Institutions; Archbishop Lebeauvin, Nuncio to the European Union, and MEP Silvia Costa for the European Year of Cultural Heritage. Other visitors have included Paola Severino, Rector of the University "LUISS," Archbishop Valentinetti of Pescara, and Fr. Jan Stefanów of the International Biblical Federation.

Publications

➤ *Plenary Assembly 2017*

The synthesis of the November 2017 Plenary Assembly is currently being compiled and will appear in the Review "Cultures and Faith." The meeting discussed anthropologies, medicine and genetics, neurosciences and artificial intelligence before meeting with the Holy Father who gave a [memorable talk](#).



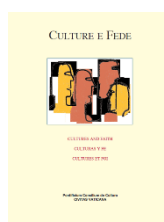
➤ *Music*

Acts of the international conference organized by the Dicastery 3-5 March 2017 on *Church and Culture: 50 years after the Instruction "Musicam Sacram."* Over 350 musicians, liturgists and pastoralists, composers and conductors, educators, musicologists, and theologians attended reflecting on the actual state of today's music all around the world. The speakers' texts, in their original languages, are available in the volume "*Musica e Chiesa*" published by Aracne (www.aracneeditrice.it).



➤ *The Journal*

Vol. XXV 2017 N.3 of the Dicastery's journal **Cultures and Faith** focuses on the Courtyard of the Gentiles. It also contains further news on our activities and areas of interest.



➤ *Intercultural Dialogue*

La provocazione del Logos cristiano was curated by the Courtyard of the Gentiles to mark 10 years since Pope Benedict's Regensburg Talk.



Engagements of the Superiors

Cardinal Ravasi attended, with the President of the Italian Republic, the celebrations for the 80th anniversary Rome's *La Sapienza* University, 23 Nov. He gave prolusions for conferences of Neonatology 24 Nov., and Ophthalmology, 30 Nov., and met with President Grasso of the Italian Senate, 27 Nov. He attended the festival "Mirabile Dictu," 30 Nov., before giving a retreat at Rome's Major Seminary, 2 Dec. He was in Perugia's cathedral speaking on "Daniel and the Apocalypse," 12 Jan., and met with Benedict XVI to offer him the volume marking the 10th anniversary of his Regensburg Talk. He also attended the 25-26 *Forum* of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. He was in Portugal to give a series of conferences to clergy from four dioceses of Southern Portugal.

The Delegate, Bishop Azevedo, spoke at the conference *EPISCOPUS, la Diócesis de Vic y la Iglesia catalana en el contexto europeo*, 29 Nov. On 21 Jan. he was in Portugal for a conference on Music.

The Secretary, Bishop Tighe, was in St. Andrew's, Scotland launching the Global Patrons of the Sport at the Service of Humanity. He had an encounter with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and engaged with leaders of the fashion industry preparing a forthcoming exhibition. He was in Paris meeting hackers and Brussels for a meeting on Cultural Goods.

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca has been working on the Holy See's role within the Olympic Movement and will be present as an Observer at the Olympic Session and at the opening ceremony of the XXIII Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang. A value-led video game is also under development by Allianz to spread the Principles of the Sport at the Service of Humanity movement.



Varia:

- Cardinal Parolin brought a [Papal Message](#) to the XXII Public Session of the Pontifical Academies at the Palazzo della Cancelleria, curated by the *Accademia Latinitatis* (5 Dec.)
- The XXXIX Cátedra de Arte Sacro de Monterrey, México this year looks at cinema.
- A Masterclass of the Zanussi Foundation's "Meeting Tent" took place at the Dicastery's office.
- The Women's Consultation Group met 21 Nov. with Italian Undersecretary Maria Elena Boschi and is due to encounter the First Lady of Turkey and also visit Rebibbia prison.
- The Students Courtyard of the Gentiles discussed "Violence on Women" with Italian Education Minister Valeria Fedeli 25 Nov., an encounter also animated by the Milanese prison theatre company *Opera Liquida* with the play "The 11th Commandment: kill those who don't love you."

Upcoming events:

13 Feb. *The Lancet* Commission (By invitation only)

26 Feb. *Heavenly Bodies* A Fashion Show, Palazzo Colonna

14 Mar. *The Economy Process: Demography, Democracy, Markets, Happiness*, LUISS, A [Courtyard of the Gentiles](#) featuring Jeffrey Sachs, Giuliano Amato, Marcello Messori and Leonardo Becchetti

26-28 Apr. [Unite to Cure](#) IV International Vatican Healthcare Conference (By invitation only)

26 May – 25 Nov. Venice *Biennale di Architettura*

13-15 Sept. Music Conference: *Composers and Church: Word and Sounds*

29-30 Nov. Cultural Goods Conference: *God Doesn't Live Here Anymore*

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.