



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Newsletter, N. 19 (15 May 2018)

***Ad limina* visits**

We recently received bishops of the Antilles and two groups from Nigeria on their *ad limina* visits. These are key moments of affective and effective dialogue between the superiors of the Dicastery and bishops engaged in pastoral ministry around the world. Beforehand, reports are submitted focusing on the different areas of culture, including the state of material cultural goods (archives, museums and libraries, works of art etc.) and immaterial ones (the stories, ideas and narratives of a people). The dialogue then begins with a synthetic overview of their local engagement with culture – often by the bishop delegate for culture. Cardinal Ravasi usually then focuses the conversation on some distinct cultural challenges, be it science, sport, music, women, young people, secularism and religious indifference or economy. Conversation then continues as the bishops share best practices and experiences and verbalize their hopes and aspirations, concerns and priorities.



Unite to Cure (April 26-28)



Under the auspices of the Dicastery, an international event in the Vatican gathered leading scientists and physicians, patients, ethicists and representatives of different religions to discuss with government officials and philanthropists some recent scientific breakthroughs and people's hopes for



the future. Aiming to advance new technologies and disseminate knowledge that can improve human health, prevent disease, and protect the environment, the 400+ participants considered cultural, religious and societal implications behind the slogan “Prevent, Repair, Cure and Prepare for the Future!” Pictured left, Pope Francis ([talk here](#)) greets famous singer Katy Perry who attracted considerable press attention to the event. Pictured right, the Secretary of State Cardinal Parolin and Cardinal Ravasi, whose address to the Holy Father is [available here](#) together with other materials.

Venice *Biennale Architettura*

The Holy See 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. Inspired by Gunnar Asplund's 1920 Woodland Chapel in the cemetery of Stockholm, the ten chapels by major architects opens to the public at the end of this month. Further [info here](#).



Visitors

Visitors have included the ambassadors of India, Monaco, Turkey, Angola, Azerbaijan and Benin and the Delegate for the European Union as well as the Secretary General of the International Olympic Committee. Groups of academics, students, priests and researchers have also visited to converse with officials of the dicastery.

Engagements of the Superiors

Cardinal Ravasi and Bishop Paul Tighe visited Durham (England) to give a talk on *Universities as Places of Encounter between Faith and Culture*, marking the 450th anniversary of Ushaw College. Cardinal Ravasi also encountered academics and the *Accademia Albertina di Belle Arti di Torino* (11 April). He spoke at a Courtyard of the Gentiles on *The Boundaries of Dignity* at Rome's Maxxi Museum continuing his work on equality and against violence on women (18 April). In Florence he gave a talk on the Beatitudes to seminarians (19 April) and spoke at a conference marking 100 years of the university of Lublin (25 April). He gave the proslution "[*La liturgia tra lumen e numen. Culto e cultura*](#)" at the XI International Liturgical Conference organized at San Anselmo (9 May). He continues to give Television, Radio and Press interviews (numerous for the death of cinema director and friend Ermanno Olmi) including on biblical themes: see this [YouTube video](#) on the Apocalypse, a theme he represented through the Oratorio "Apokàlypsis" with M^o Marcello Panni (14 May).

Bishop Tighe celebrated Mass for Rome's Marathon runners (April 7). He later addressed distinguished visitors from Villanova University at the Augustinianum about the role of Catholic universities in promoting dialogue between faith and culture. He was interviewed for the EWTN's [News Nightly programme](#) concerning our support for the exhibition "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination" at the New York Costume Institute, with Cardinal Ravasi contributing a [text for the Catalogue](#). The associated Met Gala caused a certain amount of interest.

The Undersecretary, in his 25th anniversary year as a priest, returned to seminary in Toledo to give a conference on John of Avila, Doctor of the Church and Apostle of Andalusia.

The latest edition of our journal "Culture e Fede" (vol.1/2018) containing the Acts of the 2017 Plenary Assembly on The Future of Humanity will be reaching subscribers soon.



Varia:

- Our Courtyard of the Gentiles has launched its own eNewsletter. Among other events it held an intellectual battle under the title "Banquet of Ideas" at Rome's Villa Medici on 4 May, while the Director of the Courtyard participated at the Builders of Bridges conference in Florence, 5 April.
- Our Women's Consultation Group continues to meet and is now in its third year. This was one of the themes addressed by Cardinal Ravasi in a conversation with 11 of the 14 Lady Ambassadors accredited to the Holy See hosted by the British Ambassador Sally Axworthy.
- We were present at the festival *Villaggio per la Terra, Laudato Si'* in Villa Borghese, 25 April.

Upcoming events:

24 May Cardinal Ravasi in Capodistria, Slovenia. Congress on *Social Recognition and Disability*.

26 May – Final of the *Clericus Cup*, Campo Pio XI (Petriana), 10:30.

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

29 May Courtyard on Sport at Rome's *Stadio dei Marmi*, Be Alive!

8-12 July Cardinal Ravasi at Assembly of Jesuit Higher Institutions, *Transforming our World Together*, Bilbao

13-15 Sept. Music Conference: [Composers and Church: Word and Sounds](#), Rome

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

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.