



# PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

*What's going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture*  
Circular Newsletter, N. 20 (27 July 2018)

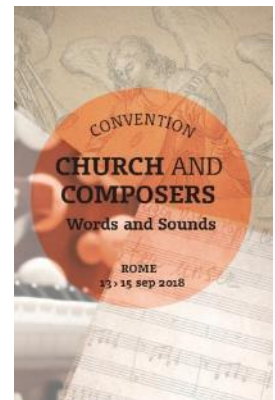
## Changing Cultural Paradigms

We recommend to your reading this keynote talk given by Cardinal Ravasi, July 9, to representatives of some 200 Jesuit Universities gathered at Deusto University, in Bilbao, Spain, not far from Loyola. Ignatian themes dominated his speech discerning the [paradigm shifts in contemporary cultures](#).



## Church and Composers : Words and Sounds (September 13-15)

What role today for the composer in the musical life of the Church? Preparations are nearly complete for the next encounter in our Church and Music series. A range of speakers – biblical scholars, liturgists, theologians, musicians – look at the figure of the composer and their pastoral and cultural contributions as well as at the needs and expectations of Christian communities. The three-day event begins with "Music and the Word" accentuating questions of memory, intelligibility and significance, then "Music and the Gospel" allows some individual and community life experiences, before a day on "Music and Instrument" offers a technical accent with focus on different sounds, culminating in the human voice.



## *Doesn't God dwell here anymore?* (November 29-30)



During the European Year for Cultural Heritage 2018, a two-day international conference dedicated to the growing phenomenon of the decommissioning of churches. It will look at alternate uses, management and promotion of the ecclesiastical cultural heritage, and diocesan pastoral activity. Many Western countries face similar social conditions and analogous problems. This is a chance to share best practices.

On July 10 a Press Conference at the Dicastery's office illustrated the initiative and announced a Call for Papers on "Decommissioning and reusing churches: issues and research perspectives" and an accompanying Instagram campaign: #nolongerchurches.

## Venice *Biennale Architettura*

The Holy See's participation for the first time at the Venice *Biennale Architettura* continues with its 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 remain open to the public and will see a special day, 21 September, with a series of events under the title "Geometries of the Spirit."



## Visitors

We have received ambassadors from Monaco and from Central America, Panama and Honduras. The vice-minister for culture came from Taiwan as did the Italian Minister for Cultural Heritage, high-level delegations from Iran and from the Treccani Foundation, university authorities from Georgetown (Washington), St. Michael's (Toronto) and De Sales (Philadelphia) and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU). Among other visitors, a delegation from the Foro Ecu mico Social who came to discuss Business and Artificial Intelligence.

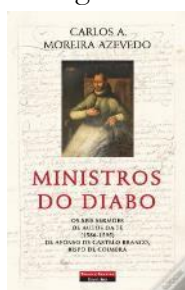
## Engagements of the Superiors

**Cardinal Ravasi** was in Capodistria, Slovenia for a Congress on *Social Recognition and Disability*. He received an Honorary Doctorate in Philology from the prestigious University of Bologna and spoke at Conferences of Italian associations of Ecclesiastical Libraries and of Pediatricians. He opened the Holy See's Pavilion at the Venice *Biennale di Architettura*. And he was called on to give numerous interviews.



*I was a foreigner and you did not welcome me*

**Bishop Azevedo** was in Lisbon to present his latest book of academic research into the Inquisition. He gave a conference marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the Bishop Barroso of Porto and spoke at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Secular Institute *Ancilla Domini* in Rome.



**Bishop Tighe** was in the Vatican Museums for the presentation of the Australian Collection Catalogue, in Oxford speaking about the "Church in a Digital World: social, ethical and cultural implications of technological change," and in America for a series of meetings at Villanova and Georgetown.

**Monsignor Sanchez de Toca** continues on the project "Sport at the Service of Humanity" which saw a second [U.S. Regional Conference](#) at Loyola Marymount, June 20-21. A videogame platform is nearly ready to harness the power of e-games and the internet to educate people about the identified sports&faith values of Joy, Respect, Love, Compassion, Enlightenment, Balance.

## Varia

- Our Courtyard of the Gentiles organized the annual [Children's Train](#) June 9 themed "City – Friend" bringing some 500 children from difficult areas of Milan and Rome to meet the Pope. A photo reportage was made by Annie Leibovitz for Vogue magazine.
- An exhibition on New Martyrs and Confessors organised in collaboration with the Russian Patriarchate of Moscow opened at the Lateran, May 30.
- Our Women's Consultation Group met in Plenary on May 29 to conclude its first triennium.
- Sporting events under our patronage saw the 26 May Final of the *Clericus Cup*, a Courtyard on Sport at Rome's *Stadio dei Marmi*, "Be Alive!" and the St. Peter's Cricket Team closing off its 4<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical and Interreligious *Light of Faith Tour* with a match in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.
- Don Carlos Diaz Vega returns to Mexico after serving the Dicastery for what he calls "five joyful years." We wish him well.



## Upcoming events:

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

21 Sept. "Geometries of the Spirit" Celebratory Event for the Holy See Pavilion at the Venice Biennale

23 Sept. Via Pacis, Interreligious Marathon in Rome

29-30 Nov. Cultural Heritage Conference: [Doesn't God Dwell 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](http://www.cultura.va), and on social media.