



# PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

*What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture*  
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## Doesn't God Dwell Here Anymore?

Decommissioning Churches and Integral Management of Cultural Heritage was the subject of a major two-day [conference](#) with a pastoral perspective. The organization was overseen by our Delegate for Cultural Goods, Bishop Carlos Azevedo and it took place at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Nov. 29-30, 2018. Moments were reserved for exchange between delegates of the Episcopal Conferences of Europe, North America and Oceania on issues of shared concern. A set of guidelines was produced whose full text is available at these links: [English](#) - [Italian](#).



The conference was flanked by an Instagram competition (left) and made space for visiting posters. The Acts are currently being prepared for publication. Meanwhile, we signal here the [videos of the conference speeches](#), including that of [Cardinal Ravasi](#) who read the Holy Father's Message ([text](#)).



## Visitors to the Dicastery

Among many others, visitors have included the bishops of the Indian Ocean and Croatia in *ad limina*, the Ambassadors of Ireland, Malta, The Netherlands, Germany, Iran, Switzerland, Slovakia, Great Britain and Mongolia. Also visiting were delegations of European Members of Parliament, the Italian Undersecretary for Economic Development, Marist brothers in view of a conference due in Lima, Tommaso di Ruzza, President of the Association of St. Thomas Aquinas, a delegation from Silicon Valley, Isabell Naumann, the President of the Catholic Institute in Sydney, John DeGioia, President of Georgetown University, and various groups of academics.

## Three Consultation Groups

The Cardinal's *Consulta femminile* has completed its first three-year cycle. This Women's Consultation Group has now renewed its membership and its mission, with the second cycle due to be unveiled soon. The new format will be limited to 20 members and will be led by Prof. Consuelo Corradi.

The Scientific Advisory body of the Courtyard of the Gentiles has drafted a new document *Economy, Demographics and Democracy*. Publication is foreseen in the near future.

The third group is to be made of Young People. Following the Synod on Young People and Vocational Discernment, we are considering various formats to facilitate a walk with them in a conversational manner.



## Other Engagements of the Superiors

Since the last newsletter, our President, Cardinal Ravasi, has given many conferences including one to the Federation of Italian Healthcare and Hospital Companies (FIASO), one for the National Association of Oratories and Sporting clubs (ANSPI), and one at the Ratzinger Foundation's "Foundations of Law"



conference at the LUMSA. He presided the *Dies Academicus* of the Pontifical Academies, assisting the Cardinal Secretary of State in distributing prizes (pictured left). He was in Turin for the Pannunzio prize for dialogue, marked the celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bose community, and was in Milan giving the *Lectio magistralis* at the Centro Lazzati on *Culture, Cultures, Religions for the European “Common Home,”* speaking to Milan Caritas at the Ambrosian Refectory, and for an encounter at the Studio Ambrosetti. He offered another keynote address at the conference marking the 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* at the Gemelli hospital, preached a retreat to the Canadian college

and gave a lecture to the students of the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy. He visited Thomas Bach, Secretary General of the International Olympic Committee at the Olympic Stadium, and was appointed Bailiff Grand Cross of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

The Delegate, Bishop Azevedo, attended the European meeting of Archivists held at Poznan, Poland. In collaboration with that network he is focusing on archiving and managing digital resources, for which a dedicated commission is being created. He presided at the opening Mass of the academic year at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music, before overseeing the Nov. 29-30 Conference on Decommissioning Places of Worship and the Integrated Management of Ecclesiastical Cultural Heritage. He was also present at the opening of the multimedia museum M9 at Mestre.

The Secretary, Bishop Tighe, was in Paris for a UNESCO [Future of Religious Heritage Conference](#) proposing a new *via pulchritudinis* of the true, good and beautiful. He was at the Lisbon Web Summit speaking on the Church’s vision of young people and app development, considering how social media can both help and damage society ethically. Conversations are ongoing with the Silicon Valley Group and the Minerva Roundtable. He opened the “Free Shots” African children’s photography initiative supported by the Courtyard of the Gentiles and was present at *The Global Ecological Crisis: Chinese and Western Perspectives*, part of The China Forum for Civilizational Dialogue at Villa Malta, the headquarters of *La Civiltà Cattolica*.

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca was in Tbilisi Georgia for the 15<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of European Sports Ministers, which focused on [Human Rights and Tackling Corruption in Sports](#). From the world of soccer he entertained Daniel Berton, World Cup ’78 Winner and Fernando Palomo, ESPN anchor. He also spoke at a number of conferences on education and sport around Italy, including one in Rome E-Games (Are competitive electronic games to be classed as sports?) He celebrated Masses for marathon runners in Florence, Valencia and Madrid, and was in Toledo for a diocesan formation day and spoke at the 98<sup>th</sup> Italian National Conference of Ophthalmologists.

### Varia

We are pleased to welcome onto the staff of the Dicastery Mons. Stefano Sanchirico, and to offer our congratulations both to Mons. Melchor on 25 years of priesthood, and to Giulia Tosana of the Courtyard of the Gentiles on her recent marriage.

### Save the Dates

Jan. 10. Press Conference in the Holy See’s Press Office to present *Athletica Vaticana*, the first Vatican Sports association (pictured right at a Mass they organized for competitors taking part in a Marathon).



*Further material on 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.*