



# PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

*What's happening at the Pontifical Council for Culture*  
Circular Newsletter, N. 28 (Jan. 23, 2020)

Pope Francis has nominated **Gergely Kovács** Archbishop-elect of Alba Iulia. For us this is happy news with a tint of sadness: joy for the archdiocese in Romania, but we lose long-term colleague and friend Gergely, who has served the Dicastery as Head of Office. He is to be consecrated bishop on Feb. 22. May the Lord bless him and his flock!



## Public Sitting of the Pontifical Academies

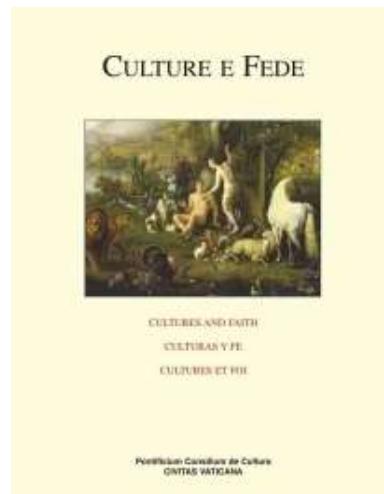


The Pontifical International Marian Academy, under the direction of the Coordinating Council of the Pontifical Council, organized the 24<sup>th</sup> Public Session of the Pontifical Academies on the theme “Mary, Way to Peace among Cultures” on Dec. 4. Cardinal Parolin read a [Message from the Holy Father](#). The Pontifical Academies Award went to Dr Carme López Calderón for the study: *Grabados de Augsburgo para un ciclo emblemático portugués. Los azulejos de la iglesia del convento de Jesús de Setúbal*, and to Dr Fr Ionuț-Cătălin Blidar for the study *L’umanità immacolata di Maria — icona del logos di Dio, compimento della stirpe eletta e frutto dell’albero della croce. Un approccio ecumenico alla mariologia immacolatista greco-latina (sec. II-XIV)*. A medal was given to the Croatian Mariological Institute.

## Journal: Cultures and Faith

The latest edition of our review *Cultures and Faith* has been printed and mailed to subscribers. The human duty to care for creation is at the heart of this volume, which explores a number of ethical imperatives that feature in the papal encyclical *Laudato Si’* on care for the common home. Some of the philosophical traditions behind an integral ecology and a human-centered ecology are then developed together with an overview of current scientific challenges.

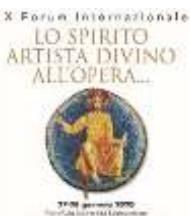
The volume also contains a young prophetic voice blasting society’s destructive mentality, and a businesswoman’s thoughts on renewable energy. A piece on the Pontifical Villas offers some curious insights. There are details too from our Science department on the Holy See’s attendance at the Beijing Garden Expo. And there is also a fascinating note on ecological issues by one of our new members, Cardinal Baltazar Porras Cardozo, who reflects on the Amazon Synod.



## Cinema

December saw two key moments in the seventh art, cinema, with the Prize Awards for the Cinema Festival “Mirabile Dictu” and then the XXIII edition of the Festival “Tertio Millennio”. In this context we recall the memorable dialogue between Cardinal Ravasi and cinema director Giuseppe Tornatore.

## Upcoming Events



**The Divine Artist Spirit.** Forum of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, Jan. 27 - 28 at the Lateran University, with an intervention by Cardinal Ravasi on *Il cosmo, profusione di bellezza in cielo e sulla terra.*

Feb. 25, Pavia. Courtyard of the Gentiles. The Aula Magna of the University of Pavia hosts a conversation on “**What Sense Has Pain?**” with Gianfranco Ravasi, Salvatore Natoli and Armando Torno.



At the Gregorian University on Feb. 27, the presentation of the Acts of the International Conference on the decommissioning of places of worship: [Doesn't God Dwell Here Anymore?](#)



In his titular church of San Giorgio in Velabro, Feb. 27, Cardinal Ravasi celebrates the **Station Mass** at 6 p.m.

March 27 – 29, 2020, our **Theater Project** will see the performance of theatrical works examining the essence of what it means to be human, addressing some anthropological issues. Three moments will focus on the figures Antigone, Prometheus and Atlas. More details will be available closer to the time.

Further ahead, in Dubai, from October 2020, the Holy See will be present at **Expo Dubai**, which has as its theme “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future.”



**EXPO 2020**  
إكسبو ٢٠٢٠  
دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**Recent visitors to the Dicastery** have included bishops in *ad limina* from the USA, a parliamentary delegation from France, the ambassadors of Greece, Singapore and Honduras, and a delegation from Nagasaki. The dicastery also hosted a Club Ambrosetti meeting of managers.

### Other News

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi received the Gran Cross of the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany and took part in a face to face encounter with the Israeli writer Abraham B. Yehoshua at the Gregorian University (see report in the [L'Osservatore Romano](#)) on the occasion of the XIX Annual Brenninkmeijer-Werhahn Lecture. He was also present at the annual Christmas concert in the Italian Senate, directed by M° Muti and was in Perugia to speak on the Book of Psalms as the Book of Faith for Israel and for the Church. His latest works have also been recently published: *La Santa Violenza* (il Mulino, Bologna) and *Piccolo Dizionario dei sentimenti* (Il Saggiatore, Milan).

*For further info about these stories see our review Cultures and Faith, our website [www.cultura.va](http://www.cultura.va), and social media.*