



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's happening at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Newsletter, N. 29 (May 13, 2020)

Since the last newsletter a significant number of Dicasterial activities – Conferences, Meetings, Symposia, Dialogues and Events – have had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Postponed

(new dates to be announced in due course)

The Plenary Assembly on “A Necessary Humanism”

Theatre Project – 3 shows based on the figures of Antigone, Prometheus and Atlas

V International Science Conference “Explore mind, body and soul” #UniteToCure

The Children’s Train. Athletics Meet: We Run Together. Marathon 4 Peace. Conversations on Artificial Intelligence. Courtyards of the Gentiles on “Faith and Superstition” (Orvieto), on “Fellini and the Sacred” and on “Fashion, Beauty and Spirituality”

A Concert of Sacred Music at the Senate

Faith and Culture Festival, New York

A long list of the cardinal’s speaking engagements has also been interrupted

Visits to the Dicastery are not currently permitted

A skeleton staff – sometimes in the office, sometimes in remote working – has kept the dicastery functioning, and as of May 4 the whole team were back at their desks, adopting appropriate social distancing.



Many appointments, engagements and projects are currently being reformulated “with creativity,” while written correspondence, telephone meetings and video-conferences have become more prominent.

The Superiors made their annual Spiritual Retreat, Ariccia (March 1-6), and on March 9 they received the French Bishops in *visita ad limina* (unusually, not in our offices but in the Apostolic Palace due to social distancing measures).



Cardinal Ravasi granted interviews to [Vida Nueva](#), [Radio Rai](#), [Il Giornale](#), [La Repubblica](#), [Il Messaggero](#), [Vaticannews-Telepace](#) (on Paul VI and art), and [www.sanfrancescopatronoditalia.it](#). He also wrote opinion pieces for *Famiglia Cristiana* and *Il Sole 24 ore*, and contributed to the sports webinar “Back to the Future”. His twitter feed received extra traffic with its daily reflections on pain, suffering, death, abandonment, loneliness, hope, body and commitment, especially over Easter.

Bishop Tighe spoke on “Economy, Employment and Education in the Digital Age” at a World Policy Forum run by Global Solutions, which had been due to take place in Berlin before being moved online. And our Center for Digital Culture also quickly adapted a conference that had been due to take place in Santa Clara, California. The work of its breakout groups is ongoing.

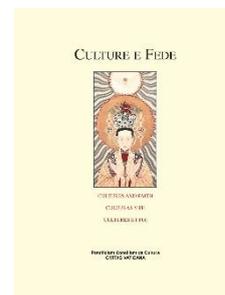
From the Courtyard: New members of the *Youth Group* engaged in a zoom session with Cardinal Ravasi, and Monsignor Polvani has opened a blog “The Chemistry of Faith.” Meanwhile, its *Scientific Group* developed some fascinating reflections in reaction to Covid-19: economic analysis and proposals for a sustainable development that is social, natural and human. E-book and webinars all coming soon via the [Courtyard](#) (enjoy the new graphics!)

The Women’s Consultation Group met February 13 and a number of projects were in formulation including a side-event for the UN Commission on the Status of Women 25 years after Beijing, and a project under the umbrella “Women reading Pope Francis.”

Journal: Cultures and Faith

Asian Perspectives – Lest our horizons shrink’

Vol. XXVIII No. 1 (2020) of our journal has been sent out to subscribers. The monographic section covers a number of viewpoints: the history of the missions, veneration of ancestors, cultural challenges in politics and peace-making, statecraft and the presence of women. The articles paint humanism with an Asian face, making clear the universality of Catholicism.



The [deadline for entries](#) for the **Prize of the Pontifical Academies** has been extended to June 30 (research projects on Christian Archaeology, Church History and the Cult of the Martyrs)

Finally, a welcome visit, March 10, from the new Archbishop of Alba Iulia, Gergely Kovács, formerly our Head of Office. He has been replaced by Monsignor Lech Piechota, to whom we extend our congratulations!

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