



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's happening at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Newsletter, N. 31 (October 1, 2020)

The Apostolic Letter *Scripturae Sacrae Affectus* was published September 30, 2020, marking the 16th centenary of the death of St. Jerome, an important figure for this Dicastery. Cardinal Ravasi has been involved in the presentation of the letter with a series of articles and interviews: cf. [Vatican News](#), [L'Osservatore Romano](#), [Arvenire](#), and [Il Sole 24 Ore](#), underlining the educational, cultural and spiritual characteristics of this untiring student and teacher of the Holy Scriptures. The full text of the papal letter is published [here](#).

The Charity Auction “[We Run Together](#)” organized in conjunction with our partners Vatican Athletics, Courtyard of the Gentiles, *Fiamme Gialle* and Fidal-Lazio raised over 100,000 Euros, which have been given to medical personnel in the northern Italian cities of Bergamo and Brescia.

In The Near Future

The Dicastery's Women's Consultation Group

- An International Conference [Women Read Pope Francis](#) on Wednesday October 7. Input from Francesca Di Giovanni, Undersecretary of the Secretariat of State, M^o Beatrice Venenzi, and Shahrzad Houshmand Zadeh, vice-president of the Dicastery's Women's Consultation Group, which is organizing the webinar.

The Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology



- October 10 will see the Third Annual Day of the Catacombs. This year's program is an entirely digital edition, with the theme “Such a Paradise!” A website already hosts materials, including for children to discover these hidden gems of Rome. (cf. www.giornatadellecatacombe.it)



The Courtyard of the Gentiles has two events in preparation

- Its scientific think tank's document on Economy and Demography is to be presented in a webinar on October 15, and then, on October 22, a courtyard on Fashion and Style, Ethics, Aesthetics and Spirituality, which will see clothing as a cultural phenomenon, under the title “For the man and his wife God made garments, with which he clothed them” (cf. www.cortiledeigentili.com)



We can announce the **publication** of the Acts of the third music conference “Church, Music, Interpreters: a necessary dialogue” (Aracne editrice). The volume shows how the art of the musical interpreter consists in translating with a new, personal spirit what a composer has already created, giving it new vitality in the service of the community. The collection of articles [available here](#) illustrates the hermeneutical approach first in theoretical form, then offers the different speakers’ own experiences in making the sacred audible.

Subscriptions are open for our fourth music conference taking place 4-5 February 2021: [Church and Music: Texts and Contexts](#). Due to Covid-19, in addition to in-person presence, online participation is being introduced for this edition.

Spotlight on Catholic Cultural Centers (CCCs)

Immersed in their own environments, CCCs are uniquely able to promote the evangelization of culture and intercultural and interreligious dialogue. The Dicastery is reviving its contacts and communication with some CCCs, using them as reference points to reach other existing centers around the world. This International Network of CCCs now has an updated directory. Telephone and video conversations have already taken place with some of them. The project will continue with international meetings, either in person or virtually, to reflect on and promote much-needed intercultural and interreligious dialogue locally.



The Superiors have given numerous online presentations during this period. We signal in particular Cardinal Ravasi’s intervention for [The Courtyard of Francesco](#), the annual courtyard in Assisi this year dedicated to the theme “Beyond the Frontiers.” And here is Bishop Paul Tighe’s speech to the annual [US Church Media Conference](#).

Visitors have included our member Cardinal Hollerich, the ambassadors of Japan and Croatia, and General Parrinello, who came to receive the pontifical honorary title of *Commendatore dell’Ordine di San Gregorio Magno* as a mark of recognition for his commitment and generosity supporting our initiatives, especially in the sphere of sports.

On September 7, the booklet “[Mettersi in Gioco](#)” containing thoughts of Pope Francis on sport was presented to the press at Caracalla Stadium with the Dicastery’s contribution. Meanwhile the Sports at the Service of Humanity movement has begun its new stage and is [developing its network](#) of partners.

On the horizon:

September 30 – October 1, 2021: International Conference, *Charisms and Creativity. Innovative projects, catalogues and management for the cultural heritage of religious orders*

from October 2021 – March 2022: Participation at Expo Dubai

November 25 – 26, 2021: Dante Conference, Rome

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