



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's happening at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Newsletter, N. 32 (Nov. 19, 2020)

Women's Consultation Group

Pope Francis sent a splendid letter to our Women's Consultation Group as it opened its series of Webinars "[Women Read Pope Francis](#)". The first evening, on Oct. 7, saw interventions by Francesca Di Giovanni, M^o Beatrice Venezi, Shahrzad Houshmand Zadeh, Yvonne Dohna Schlobitten, Maria Lia Zervino, Franca Giansoldati and Sara Salvadori. The theme was *Evangelii Gaudium* with a focus on the figure of Saint Hildegard of Bingen.

This group is involved in the webinar: [Racism, Women & the Catholic Church](#) (Nov. 23.)

Youth Consultation Group



The Youth Consultation Group consists of young men and women aged 17-25, believers and non-believers, who contribute with their perspectives on the world. They met Oct. 6 to discuss numerous matters. They were invited – an initiative open to anyone on twitter – to contribute to the cardinal's weekly campaign for greater awareness, multiplicity of perspectives, and openness to diverse priorities through his weekly columns [#parole di donne](#) (women's words) and [#pensierigiovani](#) (young thoughts).

Spotlight on Patronage

Frequent requests are made for the moral patronage of the dicastery for cultural initiatives. These include festivals, courses, concerts, conferences, pilgrimages, prizes, and other initiatives, be they in the sciences, the arts or the humanities. Always with the approval of the local ecclesial authority, in 2020 so far patronage has been granted to more than 50 initiatives, in education, music, cinema, theatre, sports. By way of musical examples, these include the conference www.jsbach.it (Nov. 22-28, 2020); [a choral composition prize](#) (closing date Jan. 21, 2021); the [IX Festival Internacional de Música Sacra de Bogotá](#) and a children's light music festival in Poland: [Skowroneczek](#).

A full list of similar initiatives is [available on our website](#).

The Courtyard of the Gentiles is undergoing a review along the lines of *Discern, Shape, Decide!* Its future activity is being planned with the involvement of a media campaign. < [Vote here](#) >



Activities of the superiors:

- Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi gave a lecture “*Le tre pietre sacre di Gerusalemme*” on the connections between the Colosseum and Jerusalem to mark the restoration of the Porta Triumphalis of the Flavian Amphitheatre. He was awarded a prize in honour of Flavius Magnus Aurelius Cassiodorus and responded with a speech about this “Singer of the Psalms”. He gave the proslution for the opening of the academic year at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Angelicum) on “Why Christianity needs Culture”. He was invited by the cardinal vicar of Rome, Angelo De Donatis, to illustrate in a televised panel the thematic heart of the encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. He gave an [extensive interview](#) to Walter Veltroni of the national paper *Il Corriere*.
- Bishop Carlos Azevedo spoke at a study day organized by the XIX International Exhibition of Sacred Art, and gave talks on liturgical space at Sant’Anselmo.
- Bishop Paul Tighe contributed to “[Caring for our Common Home](#)”, an initiative of the Australian Embassy to the Holy See to mark NAIDOC Week 2020 (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee). He also spoke at the [opening ceremony](#) of a virtual session of the Internet Governance Forum.
- Undersecretary Melchor Sanchez de Toca has launched the [Sport for Humanity Faith & Sport Leaders Council](#), with its motto “Leading and Living Like We Play”.
- Undersecretary Carlo Maria Polvani spoke at the webinar “The Ethic of Human Solidarity”, organized by HRH El Hassan bin Talal, President of the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies (Jordan); and on technological developments during a webinar organized by the *Escuela de Organización Industrial* (Madrid) in the perspective of sustainable economy and ecology.

Other news

Visitors have included the ambassadors of Nicaragua, the Hellenic Republic, and Slovenia, Tony Abbott, the former prime minister of Australia, and a delegation from Malta. The annual Catacombs Day took place Oct. 10, and a [special website](#) remains available for virtual visits.

The Pope Francis music library

A collection of musical items has been received. Currently 1,367 CDs have been catalogued, together with a small number of LPs, audio-cassettes and DVDs.

On the horizon

4-5 Feb. 2021: [Church and Music: Texts and Contexts](#), IV International Music Conference (online)

Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2021: *Charisms and Creativity. Innovation, catalogues and managing the cultural heritage of institutes of consecrated life*, International Conference, Rome

From Oct. 2021 to March 2022: Participation at Expo Dubai

Nov. 10-13, 2021: Plenary Assembly, *Rethinking Anthropology at a Time of Transition*, Rome

Nov. 25-26, 2021: International Dante Conference, Rome

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