



Plenary Assembly

“Rethinking Anthropology at a Time of Transition” is the theme of our next Plenary Assembly, which looks toward a new and necessary humanism.

Originally foreseen for 2020, and then postponed to November 2021, the decision has now been made to hold the Plenary entirely online. Members, Consultors and Experts will participate in some preparatory sessions and then a general conclusion. More information will be available in due course.

Paul Klee’s “Senecio” (right) will accompany the reflections.



The Holy See Pavilion at EXPO Dubai

“Connecting Minds, Creating the Future” is the general theme of the next Universal Exhibition, Oct 1, 2021 – Mar 31, 2022. It is the first time the World Fair will be held in the Middle East and Africa, and some 25 million visitors are expected to attend. At the request of Pope Francis, this Dicastery is leading the preparations for the Holy See’s pavilion, which addresses issues of intercultural dialogue, human mobility and ecological sustainability.

Visitors have included Dr. Salome Zourabichvili, President of Georgia (pictured), the ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Serbia, Cuba and Peru, the Culture Minister of North Macedonia, the Minister for Tourism of Malta, the Italian Undersecretary for Sport, and the Nuncio to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The presidency of COMECE also visited, as did a delegation of Austrian and German art curators.



There was widespread interest in the Fifth International Conference, *Exploring the Mind, Body & Soul – How Innovation and Novel Delivery Systems Improve Human Health*, May 6-8, 2021. Video highlights are now [online](#).



- **Congratulations to Cardinal Ravasi** who received *L'ordine di Gran Croce dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia*. The ceremony took place at Palazzo Borromeo during a Courtyard of the Gentiles on Democracy with Italian Justice Minister Marta Cartabia and the Vice-President of the Constitutional Court, Prof. Giuliano Amato ([VaticanNews](#)).
- The Cardinal returned to Bologna, the Alma Mater, for the 20th edition of *I Classici*, where he reflected in the theatre on the concept “In the Beginning”, drawing on Genesis, Job and the Psalms, with readings by Nicoletta Braschi ([video](#)).
- The event *Dante in the Catacombs* took place with readings by Carlo Verdone, Nancy Brilli and Alessandro Haber resulting in the TV2000 program [Nella Città Dolente](#). On the same theme His Eminence delivered the conference “A l’eterno dal tempo” (*Paradise XXXI*, 38) a *Lectio* on Dante’s poetry and theology, at the Basilica of the Holy Cross, Florence ([video](#)).
- Bishop Paul Tighe spoke at the seminar *Digital Footprint: Servitude or Service?* hosted by Fundación Pablo VI and gave an interview to the Silicon Valley Leadership Group on *The Vatican's Approach to AI Ethics* ([video](#)). The seminar has drawn up a series of operational ideas for the public debate on regulation, for business self-regulation codes of conduct, and for educational institutions concerning human needs in the digital era.
- Delegate Bishop Carlos Azevedo spoke at a meeting of the Association of European Archivists “Archives in a European Key: Stimuli and proposals for valorization” (May 11), and at the 32nd Congress of Spanish Ecclesiastical archivists (June 9).



**SPORT at the
SERVICE OF
HUMANITY**

Cardinal Ravasi led a delegation of Vatican athletes for a papal audience as they departed for San Marino to compete in the Small States Athletics Championships. A podcast featuring Olympic Gold medalist [Steve Mesler](#) is now online, and *Athletica Vaticana* successfully organized a [Padel Tournament](#) “Fratelli Tutti” to raise funds for the Office of Papal Charities. On July 8 a Sports & Church pact will be launched to express the Church’s nearness to the world of sports as it seeks to re-start, accentuating team and community dimensions ([communiqué](#)).

On the horizon:

Sept. 12, 2021: Official Closure of the Dante Year, Mass and Conference by Cardinal Ravasi, Ravenna

Sept. 23-24, 2021: [Ecclesiastical Museums Conference](#), Rome

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

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

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

May 4-5, 2022: [Charisms and Creativity](#). Conference on the Cultural Heritage of Religious and Institutes of Consecrated Life, Rome

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