



The Holy See Pavilion at EXPO Dubai

“Deepening the Connection” is the theme of the Holy See’s Pavilion at the Universal Exhibition being held in Dubai on the general theme “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future” open until March 31, 2022. The Pavilion intends to be an encounter between aesthetics, science and faith



under the banner of fraternity and intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Its symbols are two historical encounters: St. Francis with Sultan Malik Al-Kāmil, which took place 800 years ago; and Pope Francis with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyib, in Abu Dhabi, on Feb. 4, 2019. The initiative seeks to give continuity to the Declaration on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Common Coexistence, and among the articles on display are important manuscripts from the Vatican Library: 1) The incipit of an Arabic translation (ca. 800-830) of Theon of Alexandria’s Manual Tables (palimpsest fragment from the Bayt al-Ḥikmah in Baghdad); 2) the Liber Abbaci by Leonardo Pisano (Fibonacci, c. 1170 - c. 1250) (on the introduction of Arabic numerals in the West) and 3) Observations on the Gregorian calendar reform by the Portuguese astronomer Tomás de Orta (d. 1594). ([press release](#)) ([video presentation](#)) ([photo gallery](#))

Plenary Assembly

Our Plenary Assembly – entirely online – takes place in November and has as its theme “Rethinking Anthropology at a Time of Transition.” Some of the materials will be publically available and are being uploaded onto our website. More will follow in the coming days, joining the outline document and [schedule](#).



Artificial Intelligence

On October 21 a symposium on Artificial Intelligence was organized by the Dicastery at the *Palazzo della Cancelleria* with the collaboration of the German Embassy. It sought to promote informed conversation concerning the social and cultural impacts of Artificial Intelligence on humanity. Due to the complexity of the challenges, the symposium featured international speakers with expertise in ethics, neuroscience, philosophy, theology, law and politics. ([photo gallery](#))



Presentational Videos

Thanks to Vatican Media a multilanguage presentational video introducing the activities of the Dicastery has been published ([link](#)), and there are accompanying texts on the pages of [Vatican News](#). A [shorter version](#) in English is found here.



Memoranda of Understanding were signed during visits from the [President of Armenia](#), Mr. Armen Sarkissian (pictured), and the [Rector of La Sapienza University](#), Prof. Antonella Polimeni.



Other **Visitors** included bishops from France and Poland in ad liminas, the ambassadors of Sweden, Belgium, Germany, China (Taiwan), Lebanon, Latvia, Greece and Cyprus, the chargé d'affaires of Canada, the Archbishops of Dakar and Lublino, the Rector of the Catholic University of Peru, and consultor Mons. Tamás Toth.

Activities of the Superiors

- Cardinal **Gianfranco Ravasi** spoke to the meeting #MolteFedi2021: “Diremo io o noi? Sentieri per varcare la notte” ([Video](#)). He attended the opening sessions of the Synod of Bishops on Synodality and presided at a mass at S. Agnese marking the 4th Catacombs Day ([news](#)), and one at the Lay Centre marking its 35th anniversary where he blessed a new icon “The Hospitality of Abraham and Sarah.” He gave various interviews, including one to the Maltese ambassador, attended the pre-Cop Faith and Science Symposium in the Apostolic Palace, and a Courtyard of the Gentiles on Fashion at the Embassy of Italy to the Holy See.
- Bishop **Tighe** also attended the opening of the Synod. Then he spoke about building consensus and trust to the International Convention of the Centesimus Annus Foundation on “Solidarity, Cooperation and Responsibility: the antidotes to fight injustices, inequalities and exclusions” and gave a talk to a European Parliament Conference on “Machine Translation: Driven By Humans, Powered By Technology”.
- Bishop **Azevedo** also attended the opening of the Synod. He spoke at the Conference on Ecclesiastical Museums marking the 20th anniversary of the document on the [pastoral function of museums](#), and was in Portugal to open a Museum of Mercy.
- Monsignor **Polvani** spoke at the International Theological Congress “The Wisdom of the Cross in a Plural World” (Sept 21-24) and was present at the Faith and Science: Towards COP26 event organized by the Secretariat of State and the Embassies to Italy and the UK.



On the horizon:

Nov. 2021: Plenary Assembly, *Rethinking Anthropology at a Time of Transition* (by invitation only)

Nov. 21, 2021: Pope's Soccer Match “Fratelli Tutti”, Vatican people v. Roma people.

Nov. 25-26, 2021: International Dante Conference, Università Roma Tre, Rome ([programme](#))

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

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