



# PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture  
Circular Letter for Members and Consultors, N. 1. April 2015

## Presentation of the Holy See's Pavilion at Expo Milano 2015 (press conference 14 April)

"Not by bread alone" is the theme of the Holy See's Pavilion at Expo Milano 2015. The exterior walls transmit the appeal "Give us today our daily bread!" and inside are the sub-themes: A Garden to Safeguard; A Food to Share; An Educating Meal; and Bread that Makes God Present. The contemporary architectural space provokes visitors into commitment to solidarity. There are areas for photographs, films, an interactive table, and other exhibits including Tintoretto's *Last Supper* alternating with *The Institution of the Eucharist* by Rubens. An events calendar is available online.



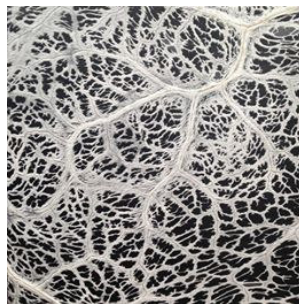
[www.expoholysee.org](http://www.expoholysee.org)

## Presentation of the Holy See's Pavilion at the Biennale d'Arte di Venezia 2015 (press conference 9 April)

Engaging with the language and grammar of contemporary art is one of the activities fostered by this Dicastery. These three images come from works of art due to appear in the Holy See's second Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2015 on the theme "In the Beginning" and seek to represent the encounter of the Transcendent with our worldly Experience, the Logos with the Flesh, the Divine Word made Man. Head over to our website for details of the artists and an explanation by Micol Forti (Consultor) and read Cardinal Ravasi's encouragement to artists to reflect on this meeting and the call to "be near", particularly through the parable of the Good Samaritan.



Monika Bravo Colombia/USA, part of the installation ARCHE-TYPES.



Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva (Macedonia/London)



Mário Macilau (Mozambique), A Fish Story

## Renewing the Church in a Secular Age: an engagement with Charles Taylor

4-5 March 2015, an international conference *Renewing the Church in a Secular Age* organized by the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP) and the Pontifical Gregorian University, took place under the high patronage of the Pontifical Council for Culture. Participants included His Eminence Card. Gianfranco Ravasi, scholars such as Charles Taylor (McGill University, Canada), José Casanova (Georgetown University, USA), Hans Joas (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany), Tomáš Halík (Charles University, Czech Republic), William Desmond (K.U.Leuven), Adela Cortina (University of Valencia, Spain) and various Professors from the Gregorian University).



Card Ravasi with Charles Taylor and Fr George McLean

A Courtyard of the Gentiles followed on 6 March on the theme "The Temple and the Piazza".

Cardinal Ravasi visited Varsavia for the 21st Fair of Catholic Book Publishers, a dialogue with non-believers and a catechesis on the family, 14-18 April 2015



**Some other moments highlighted**

The head of the Dicastery was in the USA at Loyola University Chicago for various meetings, including one on Hispanic cultures. He published a text on American Universities and Culture when awarded the I. hon. C. on 25 March 2015.



On 12 March 2015, a delegation led by H.E. Mr Ali Jannati, Iranian Minister for Culture and Islamic Guidance, accompanied by H.E. Mr Mohammad Taher Rabbani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Holy See.



From 14-16 April Bishop Carlos Alberto Azevedo, **Delegate** was in Lisbon for a Conference on Church and Culture. He gave the conclusions at the international conference “Christian Religious Experience in seeing and hearing: towards a contemporary art” from 17-18 March at the Gregorian University and presented the complete works of Fr António Vieira on 4 March. From 19 - 21 February 2015, he was in Moscow for a series of meetings in the context of the mixed Working Group for the Coordination of Cultural Projects between the Holy See and the Patriarchate of Moscow.

Bishop Barthélemy, the **Secretary**, visited Abidjan 18 March, for an international colloquium "*Vivre ensemble dans un environnement multiculturel : le denier des universités*", Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.



As well as carrying out his role as Secretary of this Dicastery, Bishop Barthélemy Adoukonou also dedicates himself tirelessly to his fellow Africans and was entrusted with the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee of Mercy, "*Misericordiae vultus*" for the African Continent.

The **Undersecretary** visited the HQ of the International Olympic Committee as part of the preparations for a Vatican Meeting on Faith and Sport in September 2016 to encourage synergy between Catholic Institutions and the Olympic movement.



And he was in New York for a meeting on Sports As Virtue: Exploring the Theology of Leisure | St. John's University on 13 February in collaboration with the Division of Sport Management.

**After the Plenary on Women’s Cultures**

Documentation is currently being gathered both for a special edition of the Review “Cultures and Faith” and with a view to establishing a permanent Womens’ Consultation Group. We shall keep you informed as we progress.

**The Courtyard of the Gentiles** held events with Charles Taylor at the American Study Centre in Rome on 6 March on “The Temple and the Piazza”, and the Scientific Committee met to reflect on the question of “Evil” on the 30 March with Giuliano Amato, François Bousquet (Member), Giacomo Marramao, Antonino Raspanti and invited economists, medics and scientists.

**New Members**

Following their entry into the college of Cardinals, the Holy Father has nominated as Members of this Dicastery:

- Cardinal Charles Maung BO, Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar
- Cardinal Ricardo BLÁZQUEZ PÉREZ, Archbishop of Valladolid, Spain
- Cardinal José Luis LACUNZA MAESTROJUAN, Archbishop of David, Panama

**In Memoriam**

William Benedict FRIEND’s funeral took place 14 April 2015. He was a Member of the Pontifical Council for Culture for two terms, serving from 1998 to 2008. Card. Francis E. GEORGE, member from 2004 -2014, returned to the Father’s house 18 April 2015.

*This circular letter bridges the gap between our Review Cultures and Faith, still coming to you three times a year, and the information on our website [www.cultura.va](http://www.cultura.va) and various social media. Richard Rouse, Communications.*