



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Letter, N. 12 (18 October 2016)

Faith & Sport at the Service of Humanity

We hosted the First Global Conference on Faith and Sport in the Vatican, October 5-7. Pope Francis spoke at the opening ceremonies along UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, IOC President Thomas Bach, and Allianz CEO Oliver Bäte. Two days of intense discussion followed with religious leaders, athletes, business leaders and other stakeholders contributing with their ideas and experiences around six principles: Joy, Compassion, Respect, Enlightenment, Love, Balance.



While reports and follow-up initiatives are forthcoming from an event Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi described as surpassing any other Dicasterial initiative, for now we merely signal three talking points: 1) the power of sport and faith to drive social change, 2) an accent on inclusion, making sport more available to all, regardless of disability, and 3) use of sport in social integration, developing engagement particularly for migrants.



Courtyard of the Gentiles on Economy

Nobel prize winner Angus Deaton was joined by economists Dominique Y Van Der Mensbrugge and Jean-Paul Fitoussi to discuss “Towards a more human and just economy: a new inclusive economic paradigm in a context of growing inequality”. The 21 September meeting was hosted by the Italian Embassy to the Holy See. Cardinal Ravasi presented it as an open space allowing a conversation that promotes a more human-centred sustainable development, sensitive to the environment and those too often left behind.



**VERSO UN'ECONOMIA
PIU' UMANA E GIUSTA**
*Un nuovo paradigma economico inclusivo
in un contesto di disuguaglianze crescenti*

The “Francesco Siciliani” Choral Composition Prize

The finals of the competition took place September 19 in Perugia and three candidates won prizes: Julian Darius Revie (Canadian-Lithuanian), Carlo Alessandro Landini (Milan), and Steven Heelein (Germany). This year’s text, in the Year of Mercy, was the “Kyrie”.



Congress of Christian Culture in Poland

Cardinal Ravasi gave a talk on “Freedom Salvaged. Christian Light on Paths of Human Life” at the V Congress of Christian Culture, at the Catholic University of Lublin. The full text of his speech is available in Italian [on our website](#).

The Engagements of the Superiors

Cardinal Ravasi celebrated Mass for the Italian Biblical Association and intervened at the Jubilee of university communities. He also completed, as a pilgrim, the last section of the *via Francigena* celebrating a liturgy in the church of the Vatican's Teutonic cemetery. He opened the Studio Azzurro installation which is now housed within the Vatican Museums having been commissioned for the Holy See's first pavilion at the 55th Biennale d'Arte di Venezia. And among other interviews he gave a special one to an Indonesian national television channel at the invitation of its Muslim directorship who invited him to give a personal Christmas message to that country's Christians and all its citizens.

The Bishop Delegate was in Vercelli for a diocesan jubilee of culture and communications and at Pisa for a conference on conservation and cathedrals. Msgr. Carlos Azevedo also visited Portugal for the celebrations of the International Congress of the Holy Spirit on "Genesis, Evolution and Present of Utopia of Universal Fraternity" and then Fatima for a colloquium in the sphere of education, before reaching Madrid for a symposium of European Cultural Heritage Coordinators.

Bishop Barthélemy Adoukonou attended a series of celebrations in Paris September 17-18 remembering the former President of Benin, Emile Derlin Zinsou. He was a prominent Catholic figure in French-speaking Africa and often encouraged the church and the government to work together. Bishop Adoukonou's homilies are posted [here on our website](#).



Bishop Paul Tighe spoke at Santa Clara University, California (USA) at a conference on digital culture and theology October 3 and then was in Milan for a public discussion on the Oscar-winning film *Spotlight* which addresses child sex abuse.

The Undersecretary Msgr. Melchor Sanchez de Toca was principally involved in the organisation of the great Vatican Sports conference. He also found time to visit Strasbourg for a Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions at the Council of Europe (September 21).

Other news

The Board of Directors for the Courtyard of the Gentiles Foundation has been renewed and a Scientific Council established. The Women's Consultation Group met again and Msgr. Tomasz Trafny spoke about Stem Cells and the Vatican at a number of high level meetings in Kansas (USA).

Visitors included an Episcopal delegation representing Hispanic American Cultures, Dr. Maria Böhmer, Adjunct Minister of German Foreign Affairs, the ambassadors of Israel and El Salvador together with the minister of Public Works of the latter, Mr Gerson Martinez. This month also saw the leaders of the International Young Catholic Students (IYCS-JECI) and the *Grupo de Investigación de construcciones arquitectónicas* from the *Universidad de Extremadura* (Caceres, Spain) who are studying architectural issues connected to the earthquake around Amatrice.

Save the Dates:

International Conference *Music and Church: Cult and Culture 50 years after* Musicam Sacram, 2-4 March 2017, Congress Centre "Augustinianum"

And finally, congratulations to the St. Peter's Cricket Club for their Second Light of Faith tour to the UK involving thrilling ecumenical and inter-religious encounters.



Further material on all these stories can be found in our review Cultures and Faith *published three times a year, on our website* www.cultura.va, *and on social media.*