



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Newsletter, N.14 (17 March 2017)

International Conference on Sacred Music



From 2-4 March 2017 we organized an International Conference on Sacred Music in the Vatican with over 350 theologians, musicians, musicologists, and administrators gathered to mark 50 years since the Instruction *Musicae Sacram*.

The Holy Father's address is [available here](#) and the acts of the meeting are being prepared.



Presentation of the Women's Consultation Group



On 7 March with an unusual *Meeting Point* in the Holy See's Press Hall, the 37 women who advise Cardinal Ravasi on the projects of the Dicastery were presented to the press.

"There is a difference," was the central message of the group's coordinator, Consuelo Corradi and Cardinal Ravasi introduced the various opportunities the group brings, particularly its offering of a collection of diverse perspectives.

The [XXI Solemn Public Session of the Pontifical Academies](#) took place 6 December, organized by the *Pontificia Insigne Accademia di Belle Arti e Lettere dei Virtuosi al Pantheon* – now with new president Pio Baldi – and saw prizes awarded to the pianist and musicologist Chiara Bertoglio and to literary researcher Claudio Cianfaglioni. A medal was awarded to Michele Vannelli, *Maestro di Cappella della Basilica di San Petronio a Bologna* and to Francesco Lorenzi, founder of the rock group *The Sun*. The XXII prize contest has also been announced, curated by the Latinitas Academy.

Until 11 May every Thursday at 5pm a series of lectures on [Pre-Columbian Cultures](#) is taking place in Rome with a number of visiting experts. The course looks at the cultures and languages of the various populations of Latin America, at legal issues, at popular religious piety and local diversity.

The first phase of the project *Education for Beauty* concluded 3 March with the collection of data for a research project jointly initiated by the Italian Episcopal Conference and our Art and Faith department. Data on the types of formation opportunities available in Italy for the clergy and artists in view of commissioning art for Christian worship is now being analyzed.

A new project has been launched under the auspices of our sports department, *The Via Pacis*, Rome's first multireligious **half-marathon for peace**. First run: 17 September 2017.

A Courtyard of the Gentiles on [Violence against Women](#) took place and its Scientific Committee has been meeting regularly.



The Engagements of the Superiors

Cardinal Ravasi was awarded the *Légion d'honneur* of the Republic of France at a ceremony organised by the French Ambassador to the Holy See, Philippe Zeller. Among many speaking occasions, the most representative were at Policlinico Gemelli on “Innocent Suffering: a Challenge for the Faith” and a conference in Malta on the theme “The Temple and the Public Square”. He engaged again with the popular Italian music world through its annual Festival at Sanremo and gave a number of interviews, including this one on the Dicastery’s cultural activities to the [German Bishops News Agency](#).

The Delegate, Bishop Azevedo was mainly engaged in overseeing our Music Conference in the Vatican, but also found time to visit Lebanon to open the Beirut Chants Festival and Porto to moderate a homage to D. Sebastião Soares de Resende, bishop of Beira-Mozambique.

The Secretary Adjunct, Bishop Tighe spoke at SXSW in Texas (USA) on [Compassionate Disruption](#). South by South West (SXSW) is one of the largest culture festivals in the States with interests in music, cinema and now mainly digital issues. He was in Ranchi, India at the 60th anniversary of the Xavier Institute of Social Service, speaking on cultural ramifications of *Laudato si'*, then Los Angeles for the Religious Education Conference, and Spain for an event with the Centesimus Annus foundation. He also spoke at the launch of the [English language edition](#) of *La Civiltà Cattolica*.

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca spoke at the presentation of this year’s Clericus Cup which has chosen as its slogan: “Challenge yourself in Life as you do in Sport” and represented the Dicastery at a meeting on Tweeting Diplomacy.

Visitors

Visitors included parliamentary delegations from Malta and Slovenia, the bishops of Costa Rica, Chile, Ireland on their *ad limina*, a delegation of German Bishops regarding the Venice Biennale of Architecture; the ambassadors of Great Britain, Singapore, Azerbaijan, Slovenia, Italy, Belgium, Sweden, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Korea; consultor M^o Arch. Calatrava; the directress of Villa Medici, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious from America, and numerous groups and individuals.

Varia:



- The first number of our journal for 2017 reflects the insights of the Women’s Consultation Group. Those who wish to subscribe may be interested to know that they can now make [payments online](#).
- The Dicastery has continued its engagement with *Human Technopole*, a permanent working group following up scientific and cultural issues from EXPO Milan. An ambitious long-term project, its recent meeting in the sphere of robotics concentrated on [Humans and Humanoids](#) (Italian video).

- Mons. Trafny delivered lectures on *The evolving concept of immortality: from theology to sciences* at UNIVA in Guadalajara and at the Winter School on Biotechnology in Perugia.

Save the Dates:

- 20-22 March 2017, *Watershed: the Value and Values of Water*, Vatican, in collaboration with *The Club of Rome*.
- 30 March 2017, *Arrogance and Fear: the dignity of women against violence*, a Courtyard of the Students. You can follow via #CortileDegliStudenti.
- 4-5 April 2017, The Future of Humanity Through the Lens of Medical Science: Rewriting the Contract, an event in collaboration with *The Lancet*.
- 17 September 2017, A half-marathon for peace, the *Via Pacis* in Rome.
- 15-18 November 2017, Plenary assembly on the theme “The Future of Humanity: new anthropological challenges.”



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