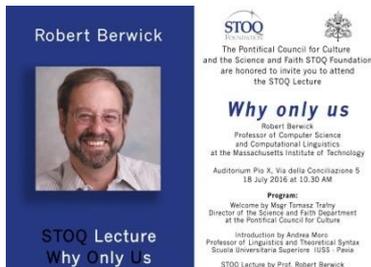




PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Newsletter, N. 10 (6 September 2016)

The STOQ Lecture



The annual STOQ Lecture was given 18 July by Robert Berwick, Professor of Computer Science and Computational Linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on the theme “Why only us”. Invited guests in the Auditorium Pio X were presented with the author’s considerations on linguistics and the unicity of the human person within evolution.

Disability and Culture

A symposium was hosted 23 July at the Dicastery and at LUMSA university on Disability and Culture.

"Ours is a disabled God", were the words used by Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi in opening the meeting of theologians and people living with disability. His thoughts on the Incarnation, accentuated, with the help of Bonhoeffer, the brutal experience of Christ's death and the wounds of his passion. References were made to Jean Vanier and Julia Kristeva’s dialogue “Their Gaze Pierces our Shadows” and Nancy Eiesland's 1994 work, "The Disabled God: Toward a liberatory theology of disability".



Feast of the First Martyrs of Rome

The Pontifical Academy “Cultorum Martyrum” continued its annual tradition of organizing a Mass and Procession through Vatican City for the Feast of the Holy Roman Proto-Martyrs, 30 June, with Cardinal Ravasi as main celebrant.



50 years of priesthood for Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi

A celebratory mass was held in the Vatican parish of St Anne 21 June to give thanks for 50 years of Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi’s priestly ministry. The occasion was graced by the presence of Cardinal Paul Poupard and former collaborators of the Dicastery.

Women’s Consultation Group

Two more meetings of the Women’s Consultation Group took place (6 June and 28 June) as it continues to develop as a presence and voice of the many fields of women’s lives and also as positive and critical support for the Dicastery’s initiatives. [Members](#) include followers of different religions and non-believers and they offer a women’s perspective on the Dicastery’s activities. They participate by offering advice and opinions. In some circumstances, at the explicit invitation of the cardinal President, they also offer proposals and carry out actions.

The Engagements of the Superiors

The President, Cardinal Ravasi received on 2 July the prestigious *Penna d'oro* Prize from the Italian civil authorities and on 12 July engaged the youth through the civil journalism prize at Positano focusing on his latest publication *Le Beatitudini*. He also attended the Mirabile Dictu Film Festival.

The Delegate, Mons. Azevedo spoke at the III International Forum on Cultural Patrimony taking place in Popayán, Colombia 10-11 August.

The Secretary, Mons. Adoukonou was in Benin for the funeral rites of the former president of Benin, Emile Berlin Zinsou, 24-25 August, after giving retreats to religious in France 14 July – 3 August.

The Secretary Adjunct, Mons. Tighe spoke at a conference on Culture and Technology in the Silicon Valley, 31 July – 2 August.

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca led the Vatican delegation to the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Rio, 1 August - 7 August.

Visitors

Visitors included a delegation from Kosovo led by Kujtim Shala, Minister for Culture, Youth & Sports and a delegation from the Ivory Coast. The Ambassadors of Poland, Great Britain, and Romania, while the Ambassador of the Czech Republic accompanied the Director of that country's National Gallery. Also visiting were the Bishop and Metropolitan of Montenegro, M^o Gustavo Dudamel of the Venezuelan *El Sistema*, academics from Boston College and Mr Vaughan Turekian, Science and Technology Adviser to the US Secretary of State.



Vol. XXIV 2016 N.1 of the Dicastery's journal **Cultures and Faith** was published with its focus on literature and mercy containing papers on Thomas More's Utopia in its fifth centenary, Shakespeare's mercy in his 400th anniversary, the oft-overlooked poet Pierre Emmanuel during his 100th anniversary, and a panorama on mercy in contemporary fiction.

Varia:

- Mons. Franco Perazzolo, a longtime collaborator, has moved on to take up a new position of service to the Holy See within the new Secretariat for Communications.
- The Fifth [International Festival of Sacred Music in Bogotá](#), Colombia, starts on 9 September and will see interventions by our official Rev. Fr Carlos J. Díaz Vega.

Save the Dates:

- 16 September 2016, within the Sagra Musicale Umbra, Basilica San Pietro - Perugia, Gala Concert of "Francesco Siciliani" Prize, 3rd international edition on the theme *Kyrie*.
- "Towards a more human and just economy: a new inclusive economic paradigm in a context of growing inequality", a Courtyard of the Gentiles, 21 September 2016, Palazzo Borromeo with 2015 Nobel prize winner, Angus Deaton, economists Jean-Paul Fitoussi and Dominique Y Van Der Mensbrugge coordinated by Roberto Napoletano.
- "[Sport at the Service of Humanity](#)", a first Global Conference on Sport and Faith in the Vatican, 5-7 October 2016.

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.