



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Newsletter, N. 21 (October 10, 2018)



Geometries of the Spirit

On September 21, 2018, a Courtyard of the Gentiles was held celebrating the Holy See's participation for the first time at the Venice Biennale of Architecture. A distinguished audience gathered for a dialogue with three internationally renowned architects: Stefano Boeri, Mario Botta and Matthias Sauerbruch at the *Teatro alle Tese dell'Arsenale di Venezia*, as they looked to emphasize the

rediscovery of a common identity among different civilizations provided by the "geometries" of architecture. "Babel or Jerusalem?" was the theme of a day that also saw a visit to the Vatican Chapels that are spread through the picturesque wood on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore, a concert in the Basilica of San Giorgio, also on the island, where the Stradivari "Madrileno" dating from 1720 was played by violinist Fabrizio von Arx, and a splendid musical and spiritual meditation in St. Mark's Basilica. Overall, the number of visitors to the Holy See's pavilion has reached 100,000.



Church and Music

An international conference was organized by the Bishop Delegate, Carlos Alberto Azevedo, 13-15 September on the theme *Church and Composers: Word and Sounds*. The gathering of circa 150 experts at the crossroads of music, culture and the liturgy focused on three themes: Music and the Word, Music and Gospel, and Music and Instruments. Opening with a duet featuring biblicist Cardinal Ravasi and composer John Rutter, 25 further speakers from five continents led the reflections, and there was time for workshops and much discussion. Two memorable moments added: a celebration of Vespers animated by the Cappella Musicale Pontificia "Sistina", and a visit to Assisi for a contemporary music concert with the Francesco Siciliani prize for a contemporary setting of the Gloria. *Acts forthcoming.*



The Journal: Cultures and Faith

Vol. XXVI 2018 N.2 has been published with its focus on Culture and Wellness. It contains material from a conference analysing specific medical practices, such as gene therapy and meditation, and showcases advancement in technology and information sharing.



Rome Half Marathon VIA PACIS



The 2nd second edition of the Half-Marathon VIA PACIS took place on Sunday 23 September, with the number of participants doubling to over 10,000.

Its message: “No to violence, No to racism, No to discrimination, Yes to peace.” Two different races: a competitive half marathon (21.097km) and a 5km non-competitive run. The start and finish was in front of St. Peter's Basilica and runners passed the synagogue, the mosque, protestant and orthodox churches inspiring interreligious dialogue.

The NY Met and the Costume Institute

Bishop Paul Tighe traveled to New York to participate in a conversation about the exhibition



Heavenly Bodies:

Fashion and the Catholic Imagination. The exhibit features articles from the papal sacristy and looks at the intersection of sacred space, ritual, and fashion. Joining Bishop Tighe were Barbara Boehm, Andrew Bolton and Fr. James Martin.

Other Engagements of the Superiors

The President, Cardinal Ravasi inaugurated the newly restored Museum and Catacombs of St. Sebastian and marked the 1st Centenary of the Republic of Azerbaijan with a concert at the Palazzo della Cancelleria. He participated in the [Synod](#), spoke to the new bishops, to Polish deacons, and encountered various academic authorities, as well as directors of Italian televisions and newspapers, including on the occasions of anniversary celebrations for *Il Messaggero* and *Avvenire*. He opened the Courtyard of Assisi on “Necessary Differences” at Assisi and also presented the Ratzinger Foundation Prize. At Palermo he gave a number of talks on art and faith, and opened the museum of the Convent of S. Caterina.

The Delegate, Bishop Azevedo was keynote speaker at conferences marking 100 years of the death of the bishop of Porto, Antonio Barroso (1864-1918), and for the 50th anniversary of the building of the church of Alfena (Porto), *The Meaning of Liturgical Space*.

The Secretary, Bishop Tighe was in Ireland for the Holy Father's Visit, and also visited Los Angeles, New York and Paris.

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca was in Rio de Janeiro in August, and then in Buenos Aires to launch the Young Leaders Mentoring Program in coordination with the Sport at the Service of Humanity movement. He has also been working on an important agreement concerning Vatican Sports bodies.

Visitors

Among many others, visitors have included bishops from England and Wales, and from Scotland in *ad limina*, the Ambassadors of Ireland, Romania, Sweden, Czech Republic, Azerbaijan, Honduras, the European Union, and delegations from Slovakia and the German State Opera Company.

Varia

The Council joyfully welcomed as staffers Frs. Benjamin Barba and Antonio Appella, while Mons. Gergely Kovács celebrated his 25th priestly jubilee. Sadly, funerals were celebrated for former collaborators Fr. Luca Pellegrini and Mons. Franco Perazzolo.

Save the Dates



Nov. 29-30. Cultural Heritage Conference: Doesn't God dwell here anymore?, Rome. The event, at the Gregorian University, includes an Instagram contest #nolongerchurches and a call for posters.

Oct. 13. [Catacomb Open Day](#)

Further material on 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.