



# PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

*What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture*  
Circular Letter for Members and Consultors, N. 5 (29 September 2015)

## Culture, Faith and Sport in the Vatican



On September 10-11 Cardinals **Gianfranco RAVASI**, **Tarcisio BERTONE** and **George PELL** welcomed some 25 worldwide authorities from the spheres of faith and sports into the Vatican to prepare the focus for a First World Conference on *Culture, Faith and Sport* planned for September 2016. Attendees included International Olympic Committee representatives, plus H.H. Prince Feisal Al Hussein of Jordan, Sheik Ahmad Al-Sabah, and athlete Fiona May. Themes considered important for the conference were: coaching, the youth, social media, inclusion of all people, a common value framework for followers of different faiths, altruism, community, and service.



**The Third International Conference on the Progress of Regenerative Medicine and its Cultural Impact** is to be held within the Vatican, April 28-30, 2016.

This event will gather the world's leading cell therapy scientists, physicians, patients, ethicists and leaders of faith, government and philanthropy to discuss the latest cellular therapy breakthroughs and hope for the future.

It will have a unique focus on pediatric cancers and rare genetic diseases, as well as diseases that occur with aging.



The **Courtyard of Francis** took place in Assisi from 23 to 27 September 2015 with five days of meetings, conferences and workshops with high-level personalities from civil society, culture, politics and art dialoguing on the theme of “humanity”.

Meanwhile, the **Courtyard of the Gentile's** Scientific Council has published its document *Linee Propositive per un Diritto della Relazione di Cura e delle Decisioni di Fine Vita* denoting common ground in the debate between believers and non-believers on the relations between patients and medical practitioners.

## The Holy See at Milan Expo



On Sunday September 20, the Pavilion of the Holy See received its millionth visitor, during the entry of

a group of 35 women religious. In the first 20 days of September more than 280,000 passed through the pavilion's 350m<sup>2</sup>. On the Saturdays (5, 12, 19 September) there were peaks with over 26,000 visitors each day, or the population of a small city passing through three family apartments.

The Pavilion, curated by the Dicastery, welcomes visitors with a wall of images representing the wounds of humanity: hunger, conflict and exclusion, denouncing what Pope Francis called the "globalization of indifference."

## Visitors and Administrative Meetings



*The Episcopal Conference of Portugal*



*Presidency of the Episcopal Conference of Brazil*



*The President of the Bundestag*

The Dicastery received, among others, Ambassadors of the Czech Republic, Colombia, Switzerland, Japan and Slovenia and diplomatic visits from Kosovo, Albania, Great Britain, the Philippines, and Russia, the latter accompanying an authority from the Orthodox Patriarchate of Moscow.

- The visit by the presidency of the Episcopal Conference of Brazil prepared the voyage of Cardinal RAVASI to Brazil from April 7 to 13, 2016 when he will visit Rio de Janeiro and Curitiba for a Courtyard of the Gentiles. He will also preach a retreat in Aparecida to circa 400 Brazilian bishops.

- On the occasion of the United Nations' New York Summit for the adoption of a "Post-2015 global development agenda" (September 25-27) the Secretary, Bishop Barthélemy ADOUKONOU signed the Common Declaration of the Bishops of Africa and Madagascar appealing for proper recognition of African cultures, particularly the culture of the family.

- The Undersecretary Mons. Melchor SANCHEZ DE TOCA participated at the Open Space Technology Symposium on the theme *How to build a Europe for all Cultures*, organized by the European Parliament, 24 September.

- On 21 September, Mons. Pasquale IACOBONE presented his book *La Basilica di San Pietro*, ed. FMR. The book uses, among other things, an introduction by Cardinal Ravasi and photographs by the artist M<sup>o</sup> Aurelio Amendola.



- The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of our Sacred Music Composition Prize Competition "Francesco Siciliani" has been launched and the deadline for receiving scores putting to music the *Kyrie Eleison* has been fixed for June 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

*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 in various social media.*