



# PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

*What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture*  
Circular Newsletter, N. 18 (26 March 2018)

## Venice *Biennale Architettura*

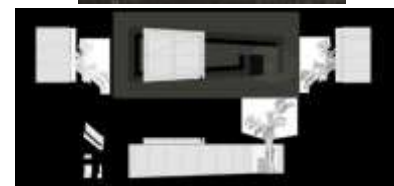


After the 2013-15 experiences at the *Biennale Arte*, the Holy See has announced it participates in 2018 for the first time at the Venice *Biennale Architettura* with a pavilion spread through the picturesque wood on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore. Promoted by Cardinal Ravasi and curated by Francesco Dal Co and Micol Forti, the project is inspired by Gunnar Asplund's 1920 Woodland Chapel in the cemetery of Stockholm. Ten chapels by major architects will be built before being reused after the exhibition. The surrounding natural space will be protected and respected (26 May – 25 Nov).



### The Architects

Andrew Berman (USA), Francesco Cellini (Italy), Javier Corvalàn (Paraguay), Eva Prats and Ricardo Flores (Spain), Norman Foster (UK), Terunobu Fujimori (Japan), Sean Godsell (Australia), Carla Juaçaba (Brazil), Smiljan Radic (Chile), Eduardo Souto de Moura (Portugal), Francesco Magnani and Traudy Pelzel (Italy)



The Vatican Chapels pavilion includes ten new constructions by noted architects and also a pavilion introducing Asplund's inspirational work. The costs are covered entirely by patrons. A press conference of presentation took place March 20. [More info here.](#)

## Visitors

Visitors have included the Bishops of Slovenia in *ad limina* visits, and the ambassadors of Italy and Great Britain. Matt Hancock, the British Minister for Digital, Cultura, Media and Sport; a group of Directors of Italian Daily Newspapers and Television News programs, and Anna Wintour, editor of Vogue Magazine.

## Engagements of the Superiors

Cardinal Ravasi attended the Rome launch of “Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination,” an initiative of the Met Museum. He was at Rome’s Maxxi dialogue with Roberto Battiston, the President of the Italian Space Agency on *Science and Religion: Fragments of Truth* and was at Rome’s *Teatro Eliseo* for a dialogue with philosopher Salvatore Natoli on *Job, the Mystery of God and the Existence of Evil*, moderated by Monica Maggioni, President of RAI. He also gave a prolusion at the Urbaniana University, pastoral conferences in Pavia and Gaeta and found time to engage with the texts, melodies and rhythms of the annual Italian festival of popular music at Sanremo.

The Secretary, Bishop Tighe, was in the USA speaking on literature and art in Washington and New York and engaged in the Vatican Hackathon before attending a screening of the Irish film *The Uncountable Laughter of the Sea*.

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca represented the Holy See as an Observer at the Olympic Session and at the opening ceremony of the XXIII Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang. He also arranged for the Vatican’s own Athletic Squad to adopt two new migrant members and was in Vitoria, Spain for a conference on European matters.



## Varia:

- A Major Courtyard of the Gentiles on *Process of Economy: Demography, Democracy, Markets, Happiness* took place March 14 at the Luiss university with Cardinal Ravasi, Jeffrey Sachs, Giuliano Amato plus Profs. Becchetti, Messori and Zamagni.
- A Lancet Commission began its work at the Dicastery reflecting on the value of life, the common good, in a quest for a new road of convergence between religion and science in the field of health.
- Our Women’s Consultation Group met 5 Feb. with the First Lady of Turkey Emine Erdogan. The conversation reflected on the female figure in society, intercultural /ethnic dialogue, and themes such as art, science and morals. Another encounter took place in Rome’s Rebibbia prison.
- Congratulations to our Consultors: José Tolentino Mendonça who preached the retreat to the Roman Curia, and Isabell Naumann, appointed President of the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

## Upcoming events:

26-28 Apr. [Unite to Cure](#) IV International Vatican Healthcare Conference (By invitation only)

30 Apr. – 1 May *450 Years Pioneering Catholic Education: Past, Present, Future*, Ushaw College, Durham UK

26 May – 25 Nov. Venice *Biennale di Architettura*

29 May Courtyard of Sport, *Stadio dei Marmi*, Rome

13-15 Sept. Music Conference: [Composers and Church: Word and Sounds](#), Rome

29-30 Nov. Cultural Heritage Conference: *God Doesn’t Live Here Anymore*, Rome

*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](http://www.cultura.va), and on social media.*