



# PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

*What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture*  
Circular Newsletter, N. 23 (Mar. 4, 2019)

## Changes to the Women's Consultation Group

After completing its first three-year cycle, our *Consulta femminile* has renewed its mission, and its 20 component members met for the first time on Feb. 21. It thus becomes a permanent body, a lively presence and voice of women – in critical support of the initiatives of the Dicastery – in the reflection on the great themes of culture. Led by a coordinator, Prof. Consuelo Corradi, the members represent an array of interests: academia, administration, athletics, diplomacy, economics, journalism, literature, motherhood, music, sciences, social and healthcare work, theatre-tv-cinema, interreligious dialogue, theology. [The Members](#) elected Muslim theologian Shahrazad Houshmand to serve as their vice-president.



## A New Youth Consultation Group



In light of the experience of the *Consulta Femminile*, a *Consulta Giovanile* has been established to represent the voice and point of view of the younger generation on the major cultural issues of concern to the Church and contemporary society. The *Consulta* is composed of 10 young women and 10 young men, aged between 17 and 24 years old, with different backgrounds and academic paths,

believers and non-believers. During their two-year mandate they will propose initiatives and cultural projects, and provide a critical and creative contribution to the activities of the Pontifical Council of Culture.

## Visitors to the Dicastery

Among many others, visitors have included the Ambassadors of Spain, Azerbaijan, Angola and Armenia and the European Union. Also visiting were delegations from the Ryder Cup (the world's most important golf tournament), groups of students from Tübingen and a delegation from the *Sacroexpo* of Kielce, a government delegation from Hungary, and Andrea Monda, the new director of *L'Osservatore Romano* also came to identify areas of collaboration.



An agreement is signed with Azerbaijan authorities to restore Leo's Cubicle in the Catacombs of Commodilla [[Press Release](#)].

## Other Engagements of the Superiors

Since the last newsletter, Cardinal Ravasi received a *Laurea h.c.* from the Greek National University in Athens, and he gave the keynote address to the ceremony marking the opening of the academic year at the University “Roma Tre.” He engaged in dialogue in Naples at the University “Federico II” (a Courtyard of the Gentiles event titled *Homo Sum*), and one on the *The Cross and Art* for the Neapolitan University “Suor Orsola Benincasa.” He has also given many conferences in Rome – including for the *Cassa Notariato* and a conference on Paediatrics – and he participated at the Plenary Assembly of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments. He has also spent a significant amount of time in media work – also due to his choice to engage with the world of popular music to engage in reflections about contemporary cultural phenomena – including writing forewords to books such as “[Because I Am](#).” His weekly book recensions are now published [here](#).

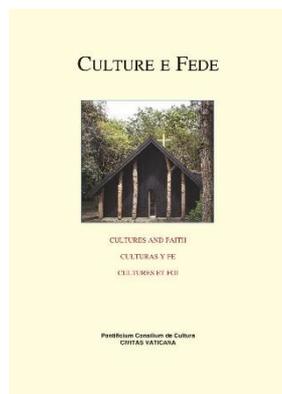
The Secretary, Bishop Tighe, was in Helsinki for a Council of Europe Conference “[Governing the Game Changer](#) - Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law” (Feb. 26-27), and in London for a conference organized by Centesimus Annus. He was also in Munich for a meeting of the political journal “Monocle.”

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca presided over the inaugural meeting of the new sports association “Atletica Vaticana” and was in Aosta for a meeting of Azione Cattolica. A delegation of the Sports for Humanity “YoungLeaders” also visited the Dicastery.

## Varia

The Courtyard of the Gentiles has initiated its own Newsletter service ([in Italian here](#)) and organized various events including a Courtyard on Democracy at the Luiss University.

The network of Catholic Cultural Centers is re-emerging as a privileged area for the dialogue with the cultural challenges of the world today. Our Head of Office was in Germany recently for a meeting of Catholic Academies, and there is a census of cultural centres currently being carried out.



Following the last number of our Journal “Cultures and Faith” dedicated to Cultural Heritage (pictured left), no. 1/2019 is being prepared and will be dedicated to music, with articles on Eternity, Celebration, Liturgy, Ethnological research, Pop Music, and – in a new column on Vatican culture – a piece on the Pontifical Bands.

We can also announce the publication of the Acts of the September 2018 Music Conference. It contains all the speeches, including those of Cardinal Ravasi, John Rutter, Gianna Fratta, Jordi Piqué I Collado, Maeve Heaney, Claudio Zonta and Marco Frisina. It is available at this link: <http://www.aracneeditrice.it/>



## Save the Dates

March 7, 5 p.m., “Station” Mass in the cardinal’s titular church of San Giorgio al Velabro.

March 19, 5 p.m., Mass and Ceremony for admission of new members of the Pontifical Academy of the Virtuosi al Pantheon.

May 5, Lucca Classica Prize Award featuring Cardinal Ravasi.

May 28, Gregorian University. “Cultures of Unbelief”

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