



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Newsletter, N. 24 (May 9, 2019)

The Holy See Pavilion at Expo Beijing



At the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Holy See has brought its own Pavilion to the Beijing Garden EXPO, open April 29 – October 7, 2019.

Under the general theme *Live green - Live better*, we chose the subtheme *Home of Hearts*, which reflects the guidance that the Holy Father Pope Francis gave Catholics and all people of goodwill in his Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*.

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of our Vatican Dicastery, and Bishop Paul Tighe were present for the opening ceremony with Chinese President Xi Jinping.



Inside the Pavilion, which covers an area of approximately 200m², are documents from the Vatican Apostolic Library, an image from the Vatican Museums, and other objects and art representing the relationship between the human person and nature, including some scientific experiences. The whole was painstakingly overseen by Monsignor Tomasz Trafny.



On 14 September 2019, a National Day dedicated to the Holy See is scheduled and a symposium dedicated to the theme of ecology is being organized.

A Third Church Music Conference



Preparations are underway for the III International Conference on Music due to take place in Rome and the Vatican on 7-8-9 November 2019. The theme is to be *Church, Music, Interpreters: a necessary dialogue*, allowing an exploration of some of the people and institutions that are called to perform and interpret this particular art form. Among the themes are the vocation of the musical interpreter, instruments in the composition of sacred music, compositional styles, scores and improvisation, vocal techniques, and a look at interculturality. To register [click here](#).

Accademia Virtuosi al Pantheon

The annual ceremony at the Pantheon on the Feast of St. Joseph saw new life brought to the Academy with the addition of new academics Santiago Calatrava, Marco Tirelli, Elisabetta Benassie, Giuseppe Penone, Alessandro D'Avenia, Andrea Moro, Antonio Spadaro, Raúl Berzosa, Jordi Boneti Armengol, Liliana Cavani, Ádám Kisléghi Nagy, Paolo Portoghesi, Aleksandr Nikolaevič Sokurov.



Visitors to the Dicastery

Among many others, visitors have included bishops from Argentina in *ad limina*, the Azerbaijan minister for Culture, Sport and Youth, ambassadors of Turkey, Italy, Holland, Austria, Taiwan, the rectors of the LUISS and PISAI universities, representatives of Iranian culture, ecumenical and musical culture in Stockholm, organizers of the *BienalSur* 2019 and OPTIC, an institution for artificial intelligence research.

Other Engagements of the Superiors

Since the last newsletter, Cardinal Ravasi – besides visiting China – spoke on “Glory, the Cloud, Fire: God among the people” at Bari and on *Genesis* at Bose. He gave a conference on “Faith and Culture” at Rome’s Pontifical Atheneum Regina Apostolorum, and conferences in the cathedral of Città di Castello, in Valencia on the “*Desafíos de la cultura actual para la educación,*” and in Braga, Portugal. He introduced the performance-reading of *Promessi Sposi* in Rome’s cathedral, an event to promote the concept of conversion, and presented the Gold Medal of the Pontiff to Ennio Morricone “in recognition of his extraordinary and proficuous artistic commitment in the sphere of music, the universal language of peace, solidarity and spirituality.” He received the prize award of the Lucca Classica Music Festival where he dialogued with an orchestral director, a soprano and a rapper. He attended a showing of the film *Il Precursore* a docu-film about John the Baptist to which he had contributed. His weekly book recensions continue to be published [here](#).

The Delegate, Bishop Azevedo, is developing a theatre project on the theme “The Future of the Human Person.” He was in Guimarães, Portugal, to give a lecture on the iconography of the Passion and has published his latest volume: *António Barroso e o Vaticano – Correspondência*, with Aletheia Editores.

The Secretary, Bishop Tighe – before visiting China – spoke at a conference on Sustainable Development Goals organised by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. He was in the European Parliament for a meeting on artificial intelligence, and in New York for a series of meetings on Faith and Culture. He participated in the China Forum for discussions on Artificial Intelligence at Santa Clara University and had meetings in the diocese of San José, California.

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca attended the lighting of the Olympic Flames at the *Ara Pacis* for the 2nd European Games (Minsk) and the Summer Youth Olympics (Baku). Sportingly, he also celebrated the Marathon Mass for the annual Rome Marathon. He has also been involved in the preparations of the *Conversaciones en Palacio de España*.

Save the Dates

May 9-13, Athletica Vaticana sends a Vatican team to Wittenberg

May 17, Teatro alla Scala, Courtyard of the Gentiles with Maestro Zubin Mehta

May 28, Gregorian University, Sociology Conference on “Cultures of Unbelief”

June 8, Children’s Train: “Building bridges to overcome isolation”

September 14, National Day of the Holy See, Expo Beijing

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.