



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Newsletter, N. 25 (June 24, 2019)

The Holy See Pavilion at Expo Beijing



The Holy See Pavilion at the Beijing Garden EXPO remains open until October 7, 2019. The chosen theme *Home of Hearts* appears very fitting for the thousands of visitors – mostly but not only Chinese – who gather there every day.

The Vice-Commissar, Monsignor Trafny, wrote this [op-ed for *L'Osservatore Romano*](#) as he is making preparations for the Holy See National Day on September 14.



The Children's Train

The seventh edition of the Children's Train arrived into the Vatican, June 8, under the title "A Bridge of Gold – a Sea of Light" with Italian children coming by boat and train to greet the Holy Father. Reflections focused on the theme of building bridges to overcome isolation, a project for these children who have suffered due to floods in Sardinia and a bridge collapse in Genoa.



Also present were some children from Naples who participate in a project of the Mascalzone Latino Sailing School offering them a path to dignified employment at sea.

Click here to [watch a video of the day](#) or to read the Holy Father's [Q & A session](#) with the children.

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](#).

Visitors to the Dicastery

Among many others, visitors have included groups of bishops from Argentina, Philippines and Angola in *ad limina*, the Polish minister for Culture with whom an agreement of understanding was signed, the German minister for Culture, ambassadors of France, Holland and Slovenia, a group of Russian Orthodox priests, Members of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, the Irish writer Colm Toibin and representatives of Georgetown University, Australian Catholic University and of St. Paul's Minneapolis.

Other Engagements of the Superiors

Since the last newsletter, Cardinal Ravasi engaged in a debate on Europe Day (9 May) on *Different Memories, Common Future*, in a dialogue with M^o Zubin Mehta at La Scala in Milan (17 May). He was in the *Universidad Comillas* Madrid to speak on “Transhuman or Posthuman – as long as it is human. Beyond Golem” ([Avvenire](#)). He also spoke at the *Conversaciones en el Palacio de España* with writer Javier Cercas where the theme of the dialogue was: “Literature and religion: two personal experiences.” He granted [a significant interview](#) to Aldo Cazzullo of *Il Corriere*. And his weekly book recensions continue to be published [here](#).

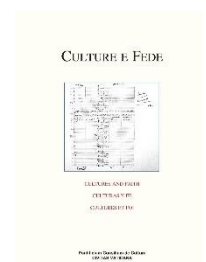
The Delegate, Bishop Azevedo, has presented his latest volume: *Moinho da Memória – História, Religião e Política*, with Paulus Editora and was in Portugal to speak about the poet Daniel Faria, the last mystic poet of the 20th century.

The Secretary, Bishop Tighe was in Strasburg for a meeting of the Council of Europe and has been developing – in coordination with the Dicastery for Integral Human Development – an international Congress on Artificial Intelligence. He also delivered a talk during the Cultures of Unbelief Conference of Sociologists held at the Gregorian University.

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca attended Games of Small States of Europe in Montenegro, accompanying a delegation from “Athletica Vaticana.”

Journal: Cultures and Faith

The next edition of our review *Cultures and Faith* is dedicated to musical matters. It has now been printed and should reach our subscribers over the coming weeks. It includes analysis of religion in pop music, reflections on prayer and psalmody, the physical place of music in church, reflections on music and eternity, liturgy and much more.



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.