



PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture
Circular Letter for Members and Consultors, N. 3 (23 June 2015)

The Visit of the Holy Father



As his Encyclical was being presented to the Press, 18 June, the office was blessed by a visit from Pope Francis. Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi welcomed him and introduced all the staff personally, illustrating their service.

And the Pope sat down, listened and answered questions.

He enquired after the detail of some of our projects, including the work in the sphere of humanising sports, the Courtyard of the Gentiles for dialogue (not proselytism) with non-believers, and in the scientific field with a focus on rare diseases afflicting children.

He spent time considering the way the Church can better draw on the gifts of women, without turning them into males or being functionalist, and he spoke about the place of gratuity in art and in the economy, giving indications for charitable actions connected to the Holy See's Pavilion at Expo Milano.

Holy See Opening Day (11 June)

On 11 June the National Day of the Holy See at EXPO Milano was celebrated highlighting how the Church is present at [#Expo2015](#), this concourse of nations with the Gospel message of solidarity, care for creation, education and thanksgiving, all centred around our theme [#notbybreadalone](#) and the prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread!"

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, Commissioner General of the Holy See, H. Exc. Mons. Angelo Becciu, Substitute for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State, H.Em. Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, President of the Italian Episcopal Conference, H.Em. Cardinal Angelo Scola, Archbishop of Milan spoke between performances by the symphonic orchestra *Esagramma*, many of whose players have disabilities. Chapeau to Monsignor Iacobone whose work behind the scenes sustained the initiative from the beginning!



Cardinal Ravasi received numerous visitors including Mons. Paulo Cezar Costa in preparation for an *Atrio del Encuentro en Río de Janeiro*, Emma Madigan (Irish Ambassador to the Holy See), Mrs Julijana Bizjak Mlakar (Culture Minister of Slovenia), and Monika Grütters (German Culture Minister), the Presidents of Loyola University Chicago, Fr Garanzini, and of Georgetown University, John DeGioia, and the Deutsches Museum director, Wolfgang Heckl. He also received the Sapegno prize.

The Delegate **Bishop Carlos Alberto Azevedo** was nominated Member of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology.

The Secretary **Bishop Barthélemy Adoukonou** was also in Milan to relate on "Culture and Agriculture" under the auspices of EXPO and then in Accra, Ghana helping SECAM prepare for the next Synod with a meeting of African theologians, 9-11 June. Here's a snippet from their press release:

"An appeal was made not to repeat the language used by those movements seeking to destroy the family, as to do so would be to legitimate them. Instead we need to begin from the faith, reaffirm it and live it in order to deeply evangelise cultures.

"The African Church feels solidarity with the sister Churches in the West who are currently living a crisis at the level of the families, who, more and more, are being challenged by ideologies that kill the family."

The **Undersecretary** headed the Holy See's Delegation at the Opening Ceremony of the European Olympic Games, Baku, Azerbaijan, 12 June.

The Courtyard of the Gentiles held its Council of Administration (15 June) and two public events:

On Saturday **30 May 2015**, the "Children's Train" reached Pope Francis carrying children living in difficult situations. This year the *Gruppo FS Italiane* provided a train that arrived at the Vatican State station with boys and girls, children of men and women who are imprisoned in Rome, Latina, Bari and Trani. The theme was the idea of "Flight" and they were given Kites as though to "fly away" and escape with fantasy from their daily reality, the confines of the prison wall and forced separation from their families.



And within the context of the Holy See's National Day at EXPO, 11 June, a Courtyard roundtable on *The Faces of the Earth* with Card. Gianfranco Ravasi, Nicolas Hulot and Giuliano Amato, moderated by Monica Maggioni.

Milestones and Celebrations



We gathered with **Cardinal Paul Poupard**, former President of the PCC, for a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Chapel of the *Domus Sanctae Marthae*. He was the President from its creation in 1982 up to 2007 and two anniversaries were marked: 60 years of priesthood and 30 as cardinal.

Bishop Werner Freistetter who worked at the Dicastery 1993-1997 received Episcopal Consecration and the mandate for the Military Ordinariate of Austria.



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 and various social media. Richard Rouse, Communications.