



# PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

*What's happening at the Pontifical Council for Culture*  
Circular Newsletter, N. 34 (Feb. 17, 2021)



The **IV International Music Conference** took place Feb. 4-5, 2021, on the theme “Church and Music: Texts and Contexts”. A video message from Pope Francis set the tone. Then, through a variety of cultural angles – translation, hermeneutics, form, language, inculturation, embodiment, liturgy and politics – input came from philosophers, theologians, musicologists, liturgists and protagonists of culture. The highlight of the online dialogue was a pair of reflections on the telling and healing possibilities of music in the grit of humanity from Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi and philosopher Martha Nussbaum (see report in [Osservatore Romano](#)). The entire event was framed by extracts from Karl Reinecke’s op. 220 “Biblische Bilder”. The Acts and video highlights are currently being prepared.

Video Message of the  
Holy Father  
to the participants of the  
IV International Conference on Music  
promoted by the  
Pontifical Council for Culture  
[\[video\]](#) [\[text\]](#)



**Meeting of Cultural Centres:** The University of Puebla (UPAEP), in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Organisation of Catholic Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (ODUCAL), hosts online the 16th Meeting of Culture Centres, Feb. 23-25.

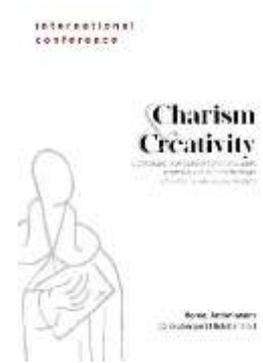


By creating a space for clear, open dialogue on topics such as marriage, roles and rights in the couple, and otherness, etc., the aim is to address the theme of love from different perspectives: listening, reasoning and proposing initiatives that contribute to the growth of humanity. You can inscribe at this [link](#).

The latest edition of our **Journal** has just been sent to subscribers. Its theme is *Literature, Revealer of Mystery*. A mix of fascinating, short works shows how opening ourselves to particular locations, cultures and contexts allows us to look at familiar things and themes more closely, with a different perspective.



**Cultural Heritage:** A Call for Papers has been made in view of the international conference “Charism & Creativity” on the cultural heritage of communities of consecrated life. Further insights are available in an interview granted by Cardinal Ravasi to *Il Giornale dell’Architettura* ([English](#) – [Italian](#)).



The **Youth Consultation Group** has been focusing on storytelling with interviews of writers Silvia Avallone, Ginevra Bompiani, Gabriella Caramore and Michela Murgia. Coming soon to [cortiledeigentili.com](http://cortiledeigentili.com)

**Women’s Consultation Group:** The next session of the Webinar series “[Women Read Pope Francis](#)” is to take place on March 3, at 9am. It will have an ecumenical and interreligious angle as the text considered is *Fratelli tutti*.

**Science** was a significant feature in the academic conference, Feb. 10, at the John Paul II University in Lublin with Dicastery’s participation remembering former member, Archbishop Józef Życiński. The webinar series “Bridging the Gap between Science and Faith” continues, and you can watch [here](#) the second in the series on “Human Uniqueness – What Makes Us Human?” featuring Jane Goodall.



#### Activities of the superiors

- Cardinal Ravasi received, among others, ambassadors from Australia, Azerbaijan, and the European Union, the Superior General of the Jesuits Arturo Sosa, and consultor Micol Forti. He has given numerous speeches and interviews, including a fascinating dialogue with Enrico Mentana, broadcast on primetime TV. The video is now available: [Cos’è davvero Natale](#).
- Bishop Paul Tighe has spoken at a number of online seminars, including [Laudato Si’: Toward an Ecology of Culture](#) and [Sharing the Good News in a Digital Context](#). With our Center for Digital Culture he continues the dialogues with Santa Clara University, Silicon Valley, the Minerva Group and others exploring the ethical implications of Artificial Intelligence.
- Undersecretary Melchor Sanchez de Toca linked up with the Australian Embassy to announce the donation of Safe Education Packs for girls in the Philippines. Sport in the Service of Humanity continues its work, including its latest podcast [Live Like You Play](#), featuring Renata Simril. He also headed the Holy See Delegation at the XVI International Conference of Ministers for Sport in Europe, Nov. 5- Feb. 11.
- Adjunct Undersecretary Carlo Maria Polvani gave an interview, Feb. 3, to TV2000 on the themes of the Courtyard of the Gentiles: “[What do people believe who don’t believe](#)” (Italian).

#### On the horizon:

Feb. 22, 2021: ore 18.00, Webinar: Courtyard’s Scientific Council – [Pandemia e Resilienza](#)

March 3, 2021: ore 09.00, Webinar: Women Read Pope Francis – [Fratelli tutti](#)

Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2021: *Charisms and Creativity*. Cultural Heritage Conference, Rome

From Oct. 2021 to March 2022: Participation at Expo Dubai

Nov. 10-13, 2021: Plenary Assembly, *Rethinking Anthropology at a Time of Transition*, Rome

Nov. 25-26, 2021: International Dante Conference, Università Roma Tre, Rome

For further info about these stories see our review [Cultures and Faith](#), our website [www.cultura.va](http://www.cultura.va), and social media.