



## PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

*What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture*  
Circular Letter, N. 6 (20 November 2015)

### Courtyards of the Gentiles in Latin America and Spain



On November 2-5, a **Courtyard of the Gentiles** took place in **Argentina** (Córdoba and La Plata) and then one in **Uruguay** (Montevideo) November 6-7, then from November 25-27 a Courtyard took place in **Spain** (Madrid and Salamanca), all with the presence of Cardinal **Gianfranco RAVASI**. In Argentina, dialogue was on the topics of “The Indigenous People,” “Civic Economy” “Borges, Science, and Faith”, “Social and Civic Responsibility,” and “Borges, Transcendence, Religiosity and Agnosticism.” The theme centred on how organizations, businesses and NGOs can provide solutions to society’s problems, and how economic entities can generate wealth without pursuing profit. The theme was inspired by Pope Francis’ statement that we must help to “organize and promote creative alternatives” to be “job creators, builders, food producers.” In Uruguay, one of the most secular American countries, the conversation revolved around the topic “On Freedom and the Building up of Society.” In Spain, the topics were “Ethics, Business, and the Common Good,” “Mysticism and Agnosticism,” and “Economy, Ethics, and Religion”.

### Twentieth Session of the Pontifical Academies



On 10 November the 20th Public Session of the Pontifical Academies took place under the theme “*Ad Limina Petri*. Monumental traces of pilgrimage in the first centuries of Christianity”. After Cardinal Ravasi’s introduction, the Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin delivered the Prize to the *Campo Arqueológico di Mértola*, for their work on archaeological campaigns, and to Dr Matteo Braconi for his doctoral thesis ‘The Mosaic in the Apse of the Basilica di S. Pudenziana in Rome’. A Pontifical Medal was awarded to Dr. Almudena Alba López for her publication *Teología política y polémica antiarriana*.



## Visitors and Administrative Meetings

October was dominated by the XIV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World, then the Slovakian and German bishops visited during their *Ad Liminas* (November 12 and 17) while Presidency of CELAM had visited the Council 18 October. The Dicastery also received the Ambassadors of Croatia and Uruguay and the Culture Minister of the Dominican Republic.



Cardinal Ravasi spoke at the conference “We forgive and we ask forgiveness”, a joint initiative of the Polish and German Bishops marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Letter of Reconciliation. And he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dr DeGioia, President of Georgetown University (Washington DC), which aims to facilitate collaboration particularly in the spheres of science, economy, sport and the Courtyard of the Gentiles (18 November).



The Secretary, Bishop Adoukonou, held an interdicasterial meeting, 5 November, to discuss education in Africa. The Delegate, Bishop Azevedo, organised one on Sacred Music to prepare an International Conference for March 2017 marking the anniversary of *Musicam Sacram* and visited Tarnowie, Poland to open a Symposium on liturgical music.

Mons. Melchor SANCHEZ DE TOCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Senior Counsellor of the Nigerian Embassy to the Holy See concerning the Owerri Science Centre and welcomed a group of young singers from Colombia who spoke about the folklore of the country. He blessed a new athletic field at Capannelle, Rome and presided at a press conference launching the season of the St Peter’s Cricket Club.



Mr. Joachim Hake, Director of the Catholic Academy in Berlin (Germany) and consultor of the dicastery visited, as did, among others, Mr. Rovshan Muradov, vice-president of the Nizami Muradov Foundation, and Armando Puzzo, director of a theatre company working in the prison of Volterra.

The Tertio Millennio FilmFest, a cinema festival of interreligious and intercultural dialogue was presented to the city of Rome with a concert performance. In its new guise greater attention is given to representatives of different religions with a selection committee developing its strategies in the sign of peace.



**The Holy See’s Pavilion at Expo Milano** has now closed but was awarded the gold medal by the BIE (Bureau International des Expositions) for its development of the theme “Feed the Planet, Energy for Life”. In receiving 1.8million visitors it raised over 150,000 Euros for Middle East Refugee projects.

**In Memoriam** The Dicastery was saddened to receive the news of the passing away of former collaborator the Rev. Fr Michael Paul Gallagher, SJ.

*Further material on all these stories can be found in our review Cultures and Faith, still published three times a year, our website [www.cultura.va](http://www.cultura.va) and various social media profiles.*