



# PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

*What's been going on at the Pontifical Council for Culture*  
Circular Letter, N. 7 (16 December 2015)

## Women's Consultation Group



Some thirty invited guests participated in the Women's Consultation Group (15 December) engaging in discussion with Cardinal Ravasi on the Dicastery's projects and trajectories. They established mechanisms to ensure that as a group their voices can become a decisive and incisive contribution to our mission, with input from other women around the world. In a second moment they discussed the sphere of sport, particularly the conference on Sport at the Service of Humanity (October 2016). And finally they discussed the proposals for the theme of the next Plenary Assembly (February 2018).

## Courtyard of the Gentiles

The student's section of the Courtyard of the Gentiles held the event "**Digito Ergo Sum**" (23 November), a reflection on the Latin language as custodian of great cultural and historical wealth. It was a moment of dialogue between people of faith and those exploring belief, and Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi with the help of Prof Ivano Dionigi (President of the *Pontificia Academia Latinitatis*) animated discussions on how those who know their own past are better able to fully realise themselves in the present, including in the social networks.



Economy, Ethics and Religion; Borges and Cabala; Mysticism and Agnosticism were the themes of two Courtyards in the Spanish-speaking world at Madrid's King Juan Carlos University, the Pontifical University of Comillas, and the Pontifical University of Salamanca (25-28 November). Speakers included Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, Miguel García Baró, Stefano Zamagni, Juan José Almagro, María Kodama and Elena Postigo. Various other cultural activities took place, including an exhibition "Metamorphoses" and a book launch for "The Colonel Francisco Borges".



## Visitors

We received courtesy visits from the new Ambassadors of Monaco and Greece. And the Ambassadors of Georgia, the Ivory Coast and Australia were among others who came to discuss a variety of projects, including Orhan Pamuk (pictured), winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, who stopped by 3 December.

## The Engagements of the Superiors

Cardinal Ravasi was in the Czech Republic visiting Prague (pictured) and Pilsen (currently European Capital of Culture) where he spoke on “The Christian Roots of Europe and its Culture” (20-22 November). He also presented the “*Officiolo di Francesco da Barberino*” at the Italian Senate’s Palazzo Giustiniani (23 November).



The Secretary, Bishop Adoukonou, was in Kinshasa for an international colloquium marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Ad Gentes* 17-21 November and then held a preparatory meeting 1 December for the pan-African colloquium on the culture of peace.



The Delegate, Bishop Azevedo, was in Florence for a forum on museums and religion at the Palazzo Strozzi aimed at ensuring religious artefacts are safeguarded and used effectively. He opened the conference “*Spazi di Comunione*” at Pescara on Architecture and Art for the Liturgy, attended the opening of the diocesan Cultural Centre in Trento (pictured) before participating in the International Forum on Culture in St Petersburg (Russia) marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNESCO.

The Undersecretary, Mons. Sanchez de Toca was engaged in some prize giving ceremonies. The San Bernardino Prize for Responsible Advertising was awarded to Sky and a Social Campaigning prize was given to Telethon (9 December). And then at the 35<sup>th</sup> edition of the Poetry prize Fernando Rielo dedicated to spiritual mysticism he noted how and poetry and mysticism walk hand in hand with humanism and history (15 December).

“In the Footsteps of St Paul” was the theme of a meeting he organised for sportsmen and women in the offices on 11 December and he led the Dicastery’s contribution for the annual Mass for CONI, the Italian government’s main sports body.

On 10 December, the first-ever online course “Science and Faith” to be run by the university of Barcelona’s theological faculty was presented in the presence of Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi.

### Patronage of the Pontifical Council for Culture



Okake-e (The Annunciation)

Our patronage was granted to 82 initiatives in 2015. Recent events included an exhibition of Japanese religious artefacts (left) relating to the Christian Sites of Nagasaki, candidate for UNESCO world heritage status, while the exhibition, “The Light of Christ Shines for All” (right) shows works by Vassily Nesterenko of the Russian Patriarchal Council for Culture. Mons. Lech Piechota spoke at the opening ceremony.



Nativity

### Save the Dates: Two Major Dicasterial Events

“Cellular Horizons”, a Vatican Conference on Regenerative Medicine, particularly on rare (or orphan) diseases affecting children is planned 28-30 April 2016.

“Sport at the Service of Humanity”, a first Global Conference on Sport and Faith in the Vatican planned 5-7 October 2016.

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