

The Vatican video archive goes digital with Sony's innovative Optical Disc Archive

Video footage of special moments in the lives of the Popes are among the Vatican's most precious assets. Thanks to Sony technology, these irreplaceable records will soon be safer and more easily accessible than ever.



CTV (Centro Televisivo Vaticano) is the Vatican's own TV station, established by Pope John Paul II in 1983. The station's crews film the activities of the Holy Father and Holy See – the central government of the Roman Catholic Church. It produces its own programmes as well as providing footage for other broadcasters around the world and keeps an extensive archive for future use.

As part of a major project to digitise the Vatican's records, the CTV team was keen to move towards tapeless storage. After carefully evaluating the various solutions on the market, they chose to invest in Sony technology.

The Sony solution is based on an Optical Disc Archive (ODA) library to be used in conjunction with integration and workflow orchestration platform Media Backbone Conductor (MBC).

The first stage of the project involves working together with third party suppliers to renew CTV's master control room. Once the new systems have been installed the process to create a fully digital version of the existing video archive will begin, replacing tapes with ODA disc cartridges, each able to hold up to 1.5 terabytes of data.

Thanks to the stability and durability of ODA cartridges, the Vatican's precious footage will be safe yet easily accessible for many years to come.