

Essay Competition of the European Society for Catholic Theology 2015

In order to stimulate theological reflection in Europe and help young theologians to make themselves known, the European Society for Catholic Theology, on the occasion of its next international conference, announces for a fourth time, an essay competition. This has the purpose on promoting creative research among young European theologians and supporting up and coming theologians. The theme of the essay is the same as the title of the 2015 Congress: “The Soul of Theology. On the Role of Scripture in Theology” (see theme description below).

1. All students of theology and all who are continuing academic work, who are studying or working in Europe, can participate for the award. Graduates in theology who already have a teaching post must have received their doctorate within the last five years, reckoned from 1st January 2015.
2. Submissions can come from any country in Europe and from any discipline within theology.
3. The limit of 5,000 words should not be exceeded and the essay should be written in one of the ET Committee’s official languages (French, English or German). However, young theologians are also permitted to submit their essay in their mother-tongue. A selection committee will then select the best three in the language. These will then be translated, where necessary, into French, English or German.
4. Through theological reflection and the author’s research, the essay should make a notable contribution to the future of theology and its particular theological discipline within the context of university research, the church and society in Europe. In order to engage with society at the present time, contributions should deal with the theme of the coming Congress of the European Society for Catholic Theology from a theological standpoint: “The Soul of Theology. On the Role of Scripture in Theology”.
5. The text of the essay must be original and must not yet have been published.
6. The closing date for submissions is 31st March 2015. Contributions should be sent by E-mail to the General Secretary of the Society, Karim Schelkens:
karim.schelkens@theo.kuleuven.be.

7. An international, interdisciplinary jury will evaluate the submissions by the following criteria:

- thematic originality
- academic quality
- comprehensibility

8. The decision of the jury is binding and final. In a first round, the jury will nominate (preferably before the end of May 2015) between two and five of the essays that have been selected as the top three contributions in each country (see point 3). From these nominees, the winner and the second- and third-ranked contributions will be chosen in a second round.

9. The first prize is a stipend for the cost of residence, travel and registration for both the next Junior Congress (17th Sept 2015) and the full Congress (17th - 20th Sept 2015) in Leuven, Belgium. The second- and third-ranked essays will receive a book prize. The Society reserves the right to publish the winning essays in its journal, *ET Studies*, after a revision of the text by the authors, if required.

If any young theologians are known to you who could enter this competition, please tell them about it.

Theme description:

Fifty years ago, the Second Vatican Council called the study of Sacred Scripture “the soul of theology” (DV 24), a claim few theologians would wish to dispute. Nevertheless, defining the concrete role Scripture plays or ought to play in theology is not undisputed.

The next international congress of the European Society for Catholic Theology seeks to address this fundamental issue, namely, how the study of Scripture is or may become the soul of the different theological disciplines. Conversely, this raises the question of what characteristics biblical exegesis should have in order to fulfill its role within theology.

The study of these questions is inextricably related to fundamental issues on the nature of Scripture: how is scriptural inspiration to be understood, how should the historicity of biblical accounts be approached today, what is the relation between Scripture and revelation? These topics will receive due attention during the conference.

Scripture does not have its primary setting in theological reflection; it is read, both individually and communally, by many people in widely varying contexts: in the liturgy, communal and individual prayer, personal reading, etc. The conference also wishes to reflect on what these settings of Scripture in the life of its readers and in the life of the Church means for exegesis and for theology at large.