

Liturgical Study Week 2018: Call for articles

*To all scholars, teachers, pastors, doctoral students
who are interested in liturgical questions*

Dear friends and colleagues fellow liturgists,

The 65th Liturgical Study Week shall be consecrated to the following topic:

THE HUMAN BODY IN LITURGY

It will be taking place from Monday, the 2nd, to Thursday, the 5th July, 2018, at the Institute of Saint Serge, Paris, France. We invite you to formulate as soon as possible a project for presentation, as well as to circulate the present invitation to all person whom you know, having academic level and who will be interested by this topic.

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While in times past, some Christian thinkers had the tendency to separate the soul from the body, it is convenient not to forget that the divine Incarnation revealed the indissoluble link between the both; a unity which is already considered by biblical conception as constitutive of the human person. Today, there appears to be more global approaches to this subject.

Our contemporary societies on their part, attach a growing importance to the care given to the body: a quest for particular bodily good should not however be reduced strictly to materialistic or consumeristic aspects, but also rejoins psychosomatic and even spiritual preoccupations.

Confronted by such observations, the organisers of the next Liturgical Study Week at Saint-Serge propose to reflect together about the place given to the human body in various liturgical practices and traditions (euchological texts, rubrics,...etc), as witnesses of an approach by which body and matter are perceived in connection with the interior Being. The fact of the incarnated God justifies a positive Christian approach of the human body, which liturgies express in themselves.

That is why we hope that the different contributions to the colloquium will be able to articulate the place of the human body according to some defined principles: gestures, postures, movements of persons in space during liturgical celebrations, as well as the role of touch, without forgetting the anthropological elements, such as the relationship between body and soul in the composite nature of the human person.

The organisers anticipate however two delimitations: according to the annual tradition, the articles for presentation should treat either old or contemporary documents, or practices, before all liturgies, while reflecting on a particular place assigned to the body. In addition, the questions connected to the Body of the incarnated Christ, if treated, must envisage his material aspect (touch, gesture, healing, etc) and not notions like the mystical Body or the Christian Assembly as Body.

- *Method of approach*

The articles should hinge on the analysis of one or many source documents, ancient or modern, from which the theological and doctrinal message can be obtained. The pastoral aspect can also be taken into consideration, on the condition of not limiting the content of the paper on one practice or experience in the field.

The Liturgical Study Weeks organised by the Institute of Saint Serge have as a defined mission the study of liturgical and religious facts, presented in an academic language, in view of facilitating dialogue between Christians, without excluding the interreligious aspects which could be also essential to the subject.

- *Possible topics and sub-topics for articles*

- Healing in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles: not only bodily healing (example the remission of sins, Mark 2:5 and //), presupposition of faith (ibid. cf. Acts 3:16; 14:9, etc).
- The human body and its place in liturgical rites: Gestures, touches, unction, etc ;
- The human body taking part in liturgy: Honour or Shame?
- The relationship between the soul and the body in liturgy: Blessings which concern particularly the body?
- Different bodily gestures: Imposition of hands, prostrations, genuflections, bowing, standing, kneeling and sitting down;
- The place of the body in funeral rites;
- The diversity of comportments according to liturgies: The manner in which evangelical Christians (for example) celebrate their worship in a more demonstrative way than other traditions;
- Configurations at the moment of the Last Supper: procession (Catholics and orthodoxies), in circle form (the reformed protestants), kneeling down (the Scandinavian Lutherans), no movement (evangelical assemblies);
- Posture of the celebrants and the faithful during prayers (for example, during the Our Father, some lift their hands);
- The diversity of comportments: the masculine and feminine positions in spatial dispositions, separation?
- The notion of purification/purity of the soul and of the body according to liturgy
- The theme of vestments: The baptismal gown, the novice in cord, the celebrants...
- The monastic tradition and frugality: Body asceticism in liturgy
- Liturgical dances
- African liturgies, the Zairian rites, other local liturgical customs, the Pentecostals
- The culture of the voice in liturgy
- And others...

- *Practical modalities*

All project for presentation should be communicated to us before the end of November, the 30th, 2017, through the following address: <semilit.stserge@yahoo.fr>. For it to be examined by the organisers of the Colloquium of 2017, every project MUST include:

- A provisional title,
- 5–10 lines of argumentation,
- Some bio/bibliographical elements of the presenter (academic or ecclesiastical activities, ...and major titles of old or recent publications), even in the case of recent presentations at the Institute of Saint Serge,
- Surname, first name, e-mail address and postal address of the presenter.

It is only the papers which are more in relationship with liturgy, and which are more elaborated across historical and academic plans will be retained, in accordance with the spirit of our encounters. The duration of the presentations is fixed for 25 minutes, to be followed by a short time of questions and a moment of debate.

It should be noted that the dominant language of our colloquia is French, but the use of other languages is also allowed. Like in 2017, a simultaneous oral translation of the presentations and discussions among participants will be assured during the colloquium, from English to French and vice versa.

The material condition of the organising institute does not allow it to provide a financial aid to the participants, unfortunately. It implies then that the presenters have to come and take care of their accommodation by themselves, and also to pay for the participation fee for the colloquium, except for the day of their own presentation, for which the meal will be offered to them free. However, in case of any financial difficulty, do not hesitate to contact us.

- *Publication*

The presenters accept that their papers should be published in the Colloquium publication document. The modalities for the publication of the papers to be sent, the stylesheet of the presentation of paper and other technical indications will be communicated during the colloquium. The publications in a language other than French must be corrected by a *native speaker* of that particular language.

Finally, it is also requested that presenters should submit the proposal of their papers to be published before the June 1st, 2018, in order to express to the organisers of the colloquium their firm pledge of participation in the 65th Liturgical Study Week of the Institute of Saint Serge, and also to facilitate the simultaneous translation.

We will be available to supply other additional information that you may need.

While waiting to hear from you, we wish you all the best of luck.

Yours faithfully,

Members of the preparation team of the Liturgical Study Weeks of the Institute of Saint Serge.