

Ad Theologiam PROMOVENDAM

The tasks of theology in Europe today

20th to 23rd of August 2025 - Dublin

In August 2025, the Loyola Institute, Trinity College, Dublin will host the congress of the European Society for Catholic Theology. The congress will address the relevance of theology for contemporary Europe, with its many challenges.

Theology must allow itself to be addressed by questions of culture and the contemporary world, while at the same time seeking to bring its insights to contemporary discussion in politics, society, and church. Serious questions: arise climate change, the movement of peoples, the dignity of human life in an era of technological advances, the reemergence of war in Europe, the persistence of sexual abuse and its mishandling, the crisis of theological institutions. The congress reflects on the formative influence of Christianity on European culture, considering whether, and how, it might be influential today. Throughout, the Congress seeks to better understand the vocation of the Church to articulate the mystery that is God to the contemporary world.



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

The Loyola Institute
School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



Theologians together in Europe
www.eurotheo.eu

Wednesday 20th August - Burke Theatre, Arts Block

12 noon to 5.00 pm Young Curatorium Research Event

Long Room Hub and Loyola Institute Building

Registration Opens 4.00 pm Main Arts Block, Burke Theatre

5.30 pm Official Opening

Welcome from **Prof. Carmel O'Sullivan**,
Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Fr Tom Layden, SJ, Loyola Trust Chair

Prof. Dr. Kovács Gusztáv, President of the European Society of Catholic
Theology: ESCT and the Role of Friendship for Theology

6.00 pm Have We Forgotten God, The Creator?

Prof. Janet Soskice, Emerita Professor of Philosophical Theology,
University of Cambridge and **William K. Warren** Distinguished Research
Professor of Catholic Theology, Duke University Divinity School

Followed by Reception

Thursday 21st August - MacNeill Theatre, Hamilton Building

9.00 am Reading The Signs Of The Times,

Prof. Tomáš Halík, Charles University, Prague

10.00 am Early Medieval Irish Theology on the Continent. St Columbanus, St Gall and the Irish Manuscripts

Prof. Franziska Schnoor, Abbey Library, St Gall

11.00 - 11.30 am Tea/Coffee

11.30 - 1.00 pm CHALLENGES I

Prof. Paulo Rodrigues, Université Catholique de Lille, France
**ISSUES AT THE END OF LIFE: BRIDGING EVIDENCE-BASED
BIOETHICS AND THEOLOGY**

Prof. Sigrid Müller, University of Vienna, Austria
**ISSUES AT THE BEGINNING OF LIFE? DOING BIOETHICS IN AN
ECUMENICAL CONTEXT**

1.00 - 2.00 pm Lunch

2.00 - 6.00 pm Parallel Paper Sessions

**6.00 - 7.00 pm Young Scholars Meeting organized by the Young
Curatorium**

Friday 22nd August - MacNeill Theatre, Hamilton Building

9.00 am Petite Théologie De La Mission - Toward a Theology of Mission

Cardinal Aveline, Archbishop of Marseille, France

10.00 am From Scholars to Designers. From Leaders to Networkers. *Doing Socially Relevant Theology*

Prof Antonina Wozna Urbanczak, University of Graz, Austria

11.00 - 11.30 am Tea/Coffee

11.30 am - 1.00 pm CHALLENGES II

Dr. Barbara Haslbeck, Archdiocese of Munich and Freising

SPECIFIC PATTERNS OF SPIRITUAL ABUSE - THE GERMAN CONTEXT

Prof. Eugene Duffy, Emeritus, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick

THE NEED FOR ECCLESIAL REFORM

1.00 - 3.00 pm Lunch and Regional Sections Meetings

3.00 - 5.30 pm Parallel Papers

6.00 pm Congress Eucharist, St. Andrews Westland Row

Presider Archbishop Eamon Martin, Concelebrant Cardinal Aveline

Saturday 23rd August - MacNeill Theatre Hamilton Building

9.00 am Theology And Mission in an Age of Artificial Intelligence

Msgr Fr Paul Tighe. Titular Bishop of Drivasto, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture

10.30 - 11.00 am Tea/Coffee

11.00 am Theology, Europe and the Persistence of War

Prof. Mark Chapman, University of Oxford

12.00 - 12.30 pm Closing session

Registration

Conference admission is €200.

Discounted Early Bird tickets until the 2nd May 2025 €150.

ESCT members are eligible for a special discount rate of €150.

Students are eligible for a discount rate of €100.

See Loyola website for further Congress details or scan the QR code.



The European Society for Catholic Theology

The aim of the European Society for Catholic Theology is to promote the academic discipline of Catholic theology primarily at the intersection where Church and society meet. As a systematic reflection on 'faith seeking understanding', Catholic theology engages in interdisciplinary research and education which is loyal and yet constructively critical vis-à-vis the Church, while at the same time meeting the highest academic standards. The organization aims to encourage the communication, promotion and support of theological education, research, and services. ESCT publishes a bi-annual journal, ET-Studies, in which the diverse problems that challenge contemporary theological debate in Europe are explored and discussed. Authors are cordially invited to contribute. Every two years the society organizes an international congress.

For membership details see our website www.esct.hu

Former Presidents

Peter Hünermann

Tübingen, Germany (1989-1995)
Honorary President

Hans Van Der Ven

Nijmegen, Netherlands (1995-1998)

Gerhard Larcher

Graz, Austria (1998-2001)

Leo Karrer

Fribourg, Switzerland (2001-2004)

Lieven Boeve

Leuven, Belgium (2005-2009)

Eamonn Conway

Limerick, Ireland (2009-2011)

Sigrid Müller

Wien, Austria (2011-2013)

Martin Lintner

Brixen, South Tyrol (2013-2015)

Pierre Van Hecke

Leuven, Belgium (2015-2017)

Marie Jo-Thiel

Strasbourg, France (2017-2019)

Milos Lichner

Bratislava, Slovakia (2019-2021)

Margit Eckholt Osnabrück

Germany (2021-2023)

Gusztáv Kovács

Pécs, Hungary (2023-2025)

This conference is sponsored by the Loyola Institute Trust.



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

The Loyola Institute
School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



Theologians together in Europe
www.eurotheo.eu