

CALL FOR PAPERS

From the 31st of August until the 2nd of September 2017, ESSTD and Living Fully will jointly organise four workshops within the framework of the European Society for Catholic Theology's congress on Fraternity in Strasburg (France). About this theme the conference committee writes:

“Fraternity is an essential human quality, but it is not automatic. Our societies value competitiveness and practical efficiency and therefore, the rivalries that compromise fraternal relationships. Would not fraternity be a challenge? In the opening pages of the Bible, Cain says he's not responsible for his brother ... But who is this brother? [...] In the Gospel Jesus says fraternity is not merely an issue of family-ties but goes much further, finding it where one would not expect it: “For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.” (Mk 3: 35). He is giving us a possible key to fraternity: every human being is our brother, when he recognizes himself as God's child. With the Incarnation, everything has indeed changed: God took on a human face to enable us to participate in his Trinitarian life.”

Still: Who is this brother / sister? Is every human being my sister / brother? What does it imply for a Christian to recognise another person as a brother, no matter her/his ability?

The questions raised are pertinent to persons with disabilities whose lives are often lived in loneliness and isolation. This is particularly true of persons living with cognitive impairments, such as intellectual disability, acquired brain damage, or dementia. When fraternity and friendship are limited to relationships between peers, persons with cognitive impairments lose out. On the other hand, people who do engage in fraternal relationships with such persons frequently speak of the many gifts they receive from these friends. Their experience challenges reductive notions of fraternity and urges deeper theological reflections on the nature of friendship, as well as on both unity and diversity among human beings. Fraternity places Christians in the heart of the eschatological tension of the Kingdom: promise of a life fully given already and to be constantly renewed.

You are invited to submit short papers to present at the Living fully / ESSTD – workshops. The topic of your paper should relate to the concept of fraternity and how this interacts with theology and disability. The Living fully / ESSTD-workshops aim to give space to both practitioners and theorists. This will provide an opportunity to deepen the theme of fraternity and disability within all fields of theology but also in its relationship with Catholic social teaching, sociology, anthropology, charity, environment, education, etc.

Accepted languages: French and English

Obligatory mentions: Title, Last name, First name, E-mail, Institution, and Title of your paper

Abstract length: max. 2000 signs (± 300 words)

Deadline : 1st of February 2017

To be sent at: cgangemi.kairos@gmail.com

Authors will be notified about the acceptance of their proposal on the 31st of March 2017.