

2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ESBVM-USA: CALL FOR PAPERS

The Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary, USA (ESBVM-USA) was formed by Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Orthodox, and Presbyterian Scholars and is open to all Christians. The Society exists to advance the study of Mary, the Mother of Christ. Our immediate goal is inter-ecclesial scholarship that focuses on Mary in light of Christian theological, biblical and spiritual principles. Furthermore, by means of shared study and prayer, we provide an opportunity for Christians of various denominational backgrounds to explore how Marian studies might contribute to the search for unity.

PROPOSAL DUE DATE: February 1, 2018

Conference Theme: “Mary, Disciple of the Lord: Suffering”

Conference Dates: July 26-28, 2018

Conference Location: Misericordia University in Dallas, PA (just outside Wilkes-Barre)

Submission Guidelines and Requirements:

The paper proposal should be in DOC or DOCX and must include:

1. presentation title,
2. your name, professional affiliation (*e.g.*, university or church name), and status (undergrad, grad. student, Ph.D. candidate, faculty, pastor, etc.),
3. contact information (e-mail address and daytime telephone),
4. abstract (*350-500 words*), and
5. equipment needs.

The general theme for the 2018 ESBVM-USA Conference is “**Mary, Disciple of the Lord: Suffering.**” This theme may be pondered using a variety of methods appropriate to your field of study, personal interests, and particular Christian tradition. The following are some suggested topics to use for inspiration:

- ❖ Explorations of the importance of Mary’s suffering, such as studies of Mary as a teacher in how to deal with suffering or the concept of “Co-Redemptrix” and its implications for doctrine and/or ecumenical dialogue
- ❖ Eastern and/or Western artistic depictions of Mary, such as her presence at the foot of the Cross in paintings and iconography, or in other media like Michaelangelo’s *Pieta*.
- ❖ Descriptions of Mary and suffering in literature, such as poetry or Medieval passion plays
- ❖ Mary’s role in consoling those who suffer, drawing from Scripture, Tradition, and/or popular piety
- ❖ The historical development in the Christian understanding of Mary as someone who suffered or consoles, beginning with either the Bible, the Church Fathers, Medieval theologians, the Reformers or later thinkers
- ❖ Biblical evidence (or lack thereof) of Mary’s suffering or ability to intercede for those who suffer, especially according to Reformation principles or in the thought of the Reformers themselves
- ❖ Liturgical texts that express Mary’s experience of suffering, such as the Marian lamentations used in Eastern Christianity on Holy Friday
- ❖ Marian titles and devotions in Catholicism that focus on Mary’s suffering (*e.g.*, Our Lady of Sorrows, or the Immaculate Heart)

Please address your proposal for committee review to:

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