

Dear members of Societas Liturgica,
Dear participants at our 26th congress,

As our congress is rapidly approaching, we thought we would do well with providing some practical information, which will help you prepare your travel to Leuven. It is also a pleasure to announce some of the highlights of the cultural program we have foreseen.

Arrival

Most of you will arrive by train in Leuven, either after a flight into the international airport of Brussels or directly. Most of the hotels can be very easily reached from the railway station. Bus no. 2, which can be taken at the bus station at platform no. 6, runs straight through the city center. There is a bus stop in front of the Promotion Hall as well as in front of Saint Michael's Church, which is adjacent to the Maria Theresia College. Most of our congress will take place in the lecture halls and classrooms of the Maria Theresia College. Please consult the map we have attached and Newsletter 42 for more detailed information about transportation.

Registration

You can register on Monday 11 August from 2 till 5pm in Room no. 00.03 of the Maria Theresia College (address: Sint-Michielsstraat 6). This room is located at the entrance of the college and will be clearly indicated by beach flags. There you will receive all the necessary information and, in particular, two booklets: one with the program and one with the liturgies. Please keep them with you all throughout the week.

Payment

After some problems with the website, it has been quite a challenge to take care of the correct fees for registration as well as of the renewal of the membership fees. Many of you have been contacted for having paid either too much or not enough. Therefore, there will be a special booth in the registration room where things can be set. We thank you a lot for your patience and understanding.

Schedule

As usual, our program will be quite busy but at the same time allow many opportunities for conversation and exchange. A schedule for the papers will be available when you register. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of our congress week, the main presentations will be held in the morning, whereas the afternoon is reserved for papers and – on Friday – for short communications. There are worship services each evening and each morning. The Congress Eucharist will be celebrated on Friday evening just before the banquet.

Concerts

We are happy to announce that there will be two concerts during our congress week. The first one, which takes place on Tuesday night 8/8 at 8:30pm in the Aula Maior of the Maria Theresia College, is part of our program and complimentary. Songs of Belgian composers related to our topic of 'sacramentality' will be performed. The second one is the pre-premiere of the *Grosse Messe für Bach und Luther*, a unique project which brings to life music Bach had composed to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Luther's visit to Leipzig in 1539. The music was originally for organ only, but Wouter Dekoninck transcribed it into a full mass for choir, soloists and orchestra. The concert will take place in Saint Gertrud Church on Wednesday night 9/8 at 8:30pm. Tickets can be purchased upon registration or at the entrance of the church for 28€. For those who book a ticket prior to August 1,

the price is 20€ only. It suffices to send a mail to bach.grossemesse.luther@gmail.com to reserve a ticket. Please click here for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVuqDAFRQ7A>.

Exhibition

Leuven was one of the earliest faculties which condemned a set of Martin Luther's theological statements. On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, a special exhibition featuring interesting documents related to this series of events is on display in the entrance hall of KU Leuven's Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies library. The exhibition is open to all participants and there will be guided tours by specialists on Tuesday and Friday.

Opening evening

We will gather at the Mathieu de Layens square in front of the major gate of Saint Peter's church on Monday 7/8 at 5:45pm. You can't miss this building, as it is literally in the center of the town. Afterwards, our congress will be opened and the president will deliver his address. The evening will be closed with a 'Belgian beer reception' including food.

We look very much forward to welcoming you in Leuven and wish you safe travels to Belgium!

Frédérique Poulet & Cas Wepener (interim secretaries)
Joris Geldhof (chair of the local committee)