

Porticus Conference on Catholic Intellectual Tradition
Saturday 8 March 2025

Venue: Culture and Conference Center Antropia
Hoofdstraat 8, Driebergen-Rijsenburg, Netherlands

In the academic world, where knowledge is increasingly fragmented into numerous specializations, we have recently observed a growing need among scientists to consider the interconnectedness of human beings within the broader context of the natural world. We believe that the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (CIT) may provide a framework for a more comprehensive and integrated approach to scientific disciplines.

In pursuit of the above, Porticus plans to start providing grants to scientists to conduct scientific research that puts the Catholic Intellectual Tradition into practice.

To get a better handle on the meaning of this framework, we are pleased to invite you to a conference on Catholic Intellectual Tradition on **Saturday 8 March 2025, in Driebergen (the Netherlands)**.

For this day, we have asked scholars from various disciplines to give their views on CIT in their field. We will debate with these speakers in small groups and conclude with an informal dinner. The meeting will also see the presentation of the first Simone Weil Awards, a programme of the Thomas More Foundation in which scientists receive an award to promote CIT in the public domain.

The awards will be presented by prof. Wim van de Donk, Rector Magnificus of Tilburg University.

We invite for this conference alumni of Niels Stensen Fellowship as well as scientists from our Porticus partner network who have experience or interest in this topic. The language of the conference is English. You can find the conference programme attached. The conference is free of charge.

Please indicate [here](#) whether you would like to participate.

This is the official registration form. Also complete this if you previously reacted on the save-the-date message.

We also request that you respond if you are unable to attend.

We hope to welcome you in Driebergen, kind regards,

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Prof. Monique Smeets, chair Niels Stensen Fellowship Committee

Diederik Slot, Porticus

10.00 Walk-in with Coffee

10.30 Opening

Chair: prof. Monique Smeets, Social, Health & Organisational Psychology,
chair of Niels Stensen Fellowship.

10.45 **Keynote on Integral Ecology**

prof. Carmody Grey, Integral Ecology Laudato Si' Institute Radboud University

11.15 **Keynote on Science and Religion**

"A Jesuit Guide to the Stars, how the Catholic Intellectual Tradition life
illustrates the life of an astronomer"

Br. Guy Consolmagno SJ, director of the Vatican Observatory

11.45 **Panel Discussion**, chaired by prof. Monique Smeets

prof. Carmody Grey, Br. Guy Consolmagno SJ

Prof. Heino Falcke, Astrophysics at Radboud University Nijmegen

12.30 Lunch

13.30 **Parallel sessions** (lecture and debate)

Humanities: CIT and the interest in the human experience and society

Prof. Brigitte Bauer, Diachronic Comparative Linguistics University of Texas

Economy: the economy of Francesco

Paolo Santori PhD, assistant professor philosophy Tilburg University

Law: bankruptcy law for natural and legal persons

Prof. Reinout Wibier, law and international finance at Tilburg University

Prof. Margriet Sitskoorn, clinical neuropsychology at Tilburg University

Sociology: dealing with those who think differently

Prof. Gabriël van den Brink, philosophy at Vrije University Amsterdam

Natural sciences: the Pope's Astronomer

Br. Guy Consolmagno SJ, director of the Vatican Observatory

Ecology: Laudato Si'

prof. Carmody Grey, Integral Ecology at Radboud University

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14.30 Tea Break

15.00 **Two parallel Round Table Discussions**

Catholic Intellectual Tradition, Joost van der Net PhD

Alumni Network, Diederik Slot Porticus, Secretary of Niels Stensen Fellowship

15.45 Plenary Feedback and Closure

16.15 **The Simone Weil Awards Ceremony** (plenary)

Carlien Geelkerken, managing director of Stichting Thomas More and Verband van Katholieke Maatschappelijke Organisaties (VKMO).

Awards presentation

Prof. Wim van de Donk, Rector Magnificus Tilburg University

17.00 Drinks

18.00 Diner Pensant

Dinner speech: Catholicity and the University

Prof. Stephan van Erp, theology KU Leuven

20.00 Closure