



**National Centre for Liturgy  
Committee for Sacred Art and Architecture  
of the Irish Bishops' Conference**

**St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare**

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**National Competition for Religious Art in the Home**

Dear Artist,

As chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Sacred Art and Architecture to the Irish Bishops' Conference (ACSAA), I invite you to take part in an exhibition of religious art that is planned for August 2018. The exhibition will be part of the World Meeting of Families 2018 and will be a collection of limited edition bespoke quality religious art, which will be available for purchase to those who view the exhibition. The World Meeting of Families will be held in Dublin from 21<sup>st</sup> until 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

The World Meeting of Families is a world event celebrating the family as the cornerstone of human life, the fundamental building block of society and the Church. Families and others will gather in Dublin from all over the world to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences, to reflect on the different challenges they face, and to grow together in faith.

ACSAA, in association with the National Centre for Liturgy (NCL), is contributing to this event by holding an exhibition of religious art inspired by the theme of the World Meeting of Families -

*The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World,*

and the post-synodal apostolic exhortation on love in the family '*Amoris Laetitia*' by Pope Francis.

**Selection Process**

In order to select works of religious art for this exhibition, you are invited to submit works for consideration by a selection jury. The jury are looking for works of high quality, not only artistically but also in religious terms. As religious art, these works must awaken awareness of Christ's presence in us and to us in our home environment. They must speak of the timeless Christian values of love, forgiveness, redemption and ever-lasting life. They must begin to break open the Paschal Mystery so that as human beings we can in some small way enter into that Mystery, making extraordinary the ordinariness of every day life.

I will chair the selection jury and will have a discretionary power of veto over any selection that is made. The identity of members of the jury will be posted on the NCL website ([www.liturgy-ireland.ie](http://www.liturgy-ireland.ie)) in due course. The jury will decide what is accepted and its decision will be final. No

correspondence will be entered into as to why a particular work is selected or declined. By the same token no inference should be drawn or conclusion made by a decision not to include any particular item.

**The selection criteria that will be applied are as follows:**

1. work must be consistent with the principles of Christian faith and worship;
2. work must be suitable for a domestic setting in terms of size, weight and affordability;
3. work must be explicitly inspired by '*Amoris Laetitia*' ;
4. work must be original.

To guide you on how the selection committee will apply the first (consistency with the principles of Christian faith and worship), I direct you to a) the address by Pope Paul VI to artists in the Sistine Chapel on 7 May 1964 [w2.vatican.va](http://w2.vatican.va); b) '*The Constitution on The Sacred Liturgy*' 1963 (articles 7-13, 24, 37, 102-106, 122-128) [w2.vatican.va](http://w2.vatican.va); c) '*Letter to Artists*' by Pope John Paul II 1999 [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com) and d) '*The Place of Worship*' produced by the Irish Episcopal Commission for Liturgy 1994 available from Veritas Publications [www.veritasbooksonline.com](http://www.veritasbooksonline.com).

The second (suitability for a domestic setting) is designed to balance wide-ranging eligibility with a focused response and whilst there are no specific upper limits for this criteria, I anticipate that eligibility of individual submissions will be self evident.

With regard to the third (inspired by '*Amoris Laetitia*' [w2.vatican.va](http://w2.vatican.va)), and in order to assist you to contemplate and focus your work on the theme of the World Meeting of Families, ACSAA have compiled inspirational extracts from the document in a separate leaflet. This compilation leaflet is available from NCL Tel: 353 1 708 3478; Email: [liturgy@spcm.ie](mailto:liturgy@spcm.ie). You should refer to these extracts and include in your submission an explanation of how you have explicitly referred to one or more of them in conceiving your work. In addition, between now and the submission deadline (see below), further inspirational materials are planned and when available, details will be posted on the NCL website. Familiarity with these supporting materials, whilst helpful, will not be a condition of submission.

With regard to the fourth, at the discretion of the selection committee, you may be asked to substantiate that the work you submit is your original work.

Even though a work may satisfy the criteria, it will not necessarily result in automatic selection. It will be an important consideration of the selection jury that the content of the exhibition is balanced and wide-ranging. A variety of subject matter, media, materials and cost are desired and to that end, it may be necessary to decline some works and include others.

No style or form of art will be favoured. Whether traditional or contemporary, all submissions will be considered provided they comply with the selection criteria as a minimum.

There will be no remuneration by virtue of selection for the exhibition however artists who exhibit will be able to sell their works at the event. Works will remain the property of the artist at all times.

An artist may submit up to three distinct 'works' that may form limited editions. It is preferable that, at the time of submission for consideration by the jury, the submission should be an actual work however, maquettes, images of maquettes or illustrations of designs will also be accepted. It is the responsibility of the artist to decide how best to communicate the concept to the jury. A series or

collection of items may be considered as one 'work' e.g. a nativity scene. Submissions might include sculpture (various media), stained glass, painting, fabric garments (e.g. a baptismal gown), fabric hangings, table linen, candles, shrines, jewellery, prints, stationery, etc.

**Submissions must be accompanied by a completed application form and sent or delivered to:**

*Brian Quinn  
Chairperson Advisory Committee on Sacred Art and Architecture  
National Centre for Liturgy  
St Patrick's College  
Maynooth,  
Co. Kildare  
Ireland*

**The application form will be available from the National Centre for Liturgy after 31 May 2017**

#### **Anticipated Timetable**

- Invitation to submission – end of April 2017
- Deadline for submitting requests for clarification – 6 October 2017
- Deadline for submission of works for consideration – 27 October 2017
- Notification of successful submissions – December 2017
- Deadline for submission of Works for exhibition – end of May 2018

To conclude with the words written by Pope John Paul II at the beginning of *'Letter to Artists'*:

*'None can sense more deeply than you artists, ingenious creators of beauty that you are, something of the pathos with which God, at the dawn of creation, looked upon the work of divine hands. A glimmer of that feeling has shone so often in your eyes when – like the artists of every age, captivated by the hidden power of sounds and words, colours and shapes – you have admired the work of your inspiration, sensing in it some echo of the mystery of creation with which God, the sole creator of all things, has wished in some way to associate you.'*

I hope you will accept my invitation.

*Brian Quinn  
Chairperson  
Advisory Committee on Sacred Art and Architecture  
April 2017*