

**HOMO MYSTICUS: NICHOLAS OF CUSA and RHINELAND MYSTICISM**

A conference organized by the *Studium Dominicanum* of Poland and the Chair of History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy of The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

Time: **October 2-3, 2014**

Venue: **The Dominican Convent, Warsaw, Dominikanska 2 Street**  
(postal code: 02-741 Warsaw)

1. This year marks the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Nicholas of Cusa, a strikingly original philosopher, scholar, churchman, reformer and also a mystic. Widely regarded as a seminal thinker on the crossroads of the Middle Ages and modernity, it is certainly worthwhile to bring his personality and work to a closer attention of our times.

Nicholas commanded interest and admiration, as also, in some circles, enmity, of his contemporaries. One of his admirers, Vespaziano da Bisticci, included Nicholas' life in his biographical encyclopedia of remarkable men of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, eulogizing him as a great philosopher and theologian, an outstanding Platonist, as well as a man characterized by sanctity of life, a lover of literature, and an expert in classical Greek tongue.

In our conference we intend above all to focus on Cusanus' conception of man and the intellectual and spiritual sources thereof in the thought of his predecessors, in particular the Rhineland mystics headed by Meister Eckhart. Philosophically, we shall concentrate upon analyzing the structure of man, the faculties of human soul, with particular interest in those spiritual powers which open man to immediate communing with transcendent divine reality. The unique character of mystical experience, its condition, process and consequences, ethical, spiritual, social and otherwise are certainly topics deserving a close consideration. And above all worth considering is the way Cusanus and his predecessors think they can speak about the One, who is the reality forming the object of such experience, the One, whom Cusanus addressed *Infinitatem te video*.

2. The venue of the conference is the hospitable convent of Dominican Fathers in Warsaw. We cordially welcome scholars with lifelong interest in Cusanus and Rhineland mystics, leading experts in this field of study, but we would just as much like to welcome anyone with genuine interest in the subject and particularly warmly we invite young beginners in the domain of medieval and Renaissance studies.

The invited speakers will be asked to give a 45 minute presentation of a paper, followed by a 15 minute discussion. We also foresee room for shorter, 20-minute presentations.

To the scholars giving a full-time (45 minute) presentation we will be provided with full board accommodation in the guest-rooms of the convent.

Much as we regret, we shall not be able to reimburse the travel costs of getting to the venue of the conference.

### 3. Organizers:

Norbert Lis OP  
Studium Dominicanum  
Szkoła Filozofii i Teologii  
im. Jacka Woronieckiego OP  
ul. Dominikańska 2, 02-741 Warszawa  
nlis@dominikanie.pl

Agnieszka Kijewska  
Katedra Historii Filozofii Starożytnej i Średniowiecznej  
Wydział Filozofii KUL JP II  
Al. Raławickie 14, 20-950 Lublin  
[agnieszka.kijewska@kul.pl](mailto:agnieszka.kijewska@kul.pl)