



JONGEREN KLOOSTER

St. John the Theologian icon concourse

Declaration, oktober 14. 2021

The Jongerenklooster community is glad to announce that it's icon concourse, announced at the Faculty of Applied Arts of the University of Belgrade, under supervision of prof.dr. Milan Prosen, has resulted in a winner and two honorable mentions.

Prize winner

The winning icon is written by **Kaja Djokovic**. The icon convincingly depicts a young man, in his twenties, in whom we already recognise the future apostle. He looks up for inspiration, and it is granted to him. Did he already write? The icon leaves the option open that he will do so in the future, when the inspirator from above will urge him to do so. This icon is full of expectation. The Eternal God does not think any less of John, because of his young age. And He inspires him to be confident about the future. We believe this icon will fit wonderfully in our monastery's chapel, to be venerated by our community and inspire it.

The winner gets a book, written by the young monastic community about what makes monastic life worthwhile, and the prize money of € 1000,-.

Honourable mention I

A most convincing icon in the eyes of the young monastic community is the one of the old John the Theologian, written by **Jelena Cvetkovic**. The apostle as depicted on this icon is really seeking the eyes of the beholder, and asking to relate to it. Exactly what an icon for the Jongerenklooster should do: put the depicted saint in the presence of the beholder, and ask the beholder to relate to him. It was, however, not an option to

reward the first prize to this icon. The terms of the concourse specifically ask for an icon of the *young* apostle, in his twenties. This is the crucial 'aggiornamento' of the concourse, and it is of great value to the community of the Jongerenklooster, that exists of people in their twenties.

Honourable mention II

A contribution very close to our goals was the icon of the young apostle saint John, seated at a bishop's chair. It is written by **Aleksandar Vujic**. It raises the question why the young people could not speak with authority - especially when he is chosen to be an apostle by Jesus Christ himself? Age - keep in mind that our monastic community consists of people in their twenties - is not the only criterion for the wisdom of a person. Also when the pupil John was in his twenties Christ must have seen the eagle coming. This icon however did not convince us to be such a central icon in the spirituality of our monastery.

The Jongerenklooster wishes to express great thanks to all the artists that have written their icons to compete in this concourse. It was a true delight to study the work and be inspired by it.

We are also most thankful to prof.dr. Milan Prosen, who's expertise, enthusiasm, critical view and most of all his unprejudiced attitude provided a fair chance to all contestants. The integrity of this concourse was to a great extent a result of the way he guided it.

And not in the last place, the Jongerenklooster is glad to have gotten an icon from the world of eastern-orthodoxy, to have its place in a monastery in a catholic/protestant context. May this icon contribute to open eyes for what in this sometimes bizarre world it is, that not divides us, but unites us.

Jongerenklooster, Deventer, 14 oktober 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Catharinus', written in a cursive style. The signature is written over a light grey rectangular background.

father Catharinus van den Berg