ANNUCING THE

Commonweal Theological Essay Prize

Commonweal, a journal of opinion edited by lay Catholics, is pleased to announce the 2006 Commonweal Theological Essay Prize. The prize, made possible by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, features a $5,000 first-place award and a $2,500 second-place award. Both winning essays will be published in Commonweal.

Commonweal has long been convinced that a religious or explicitly theological perspective must be brought to bear on the pressing concerns of the day, whether moral, political, or cultural. The magazine is particularly interested in the relationship between modernity and religious belief, popular culture and religious commitment, secularization and religious pluralism, church and state, religion and the arts, as well as the debates surrounding ecology, sexual morality, just-war thinking, economic and social equality, medical care and the promises and challenges of biogenetics. Essayists can write on any one of these topics or on a combination of them.

The winning essays must demonstrate how theological thinking can sharpen, broaden, and deepen our understanding of the moral, spiritual, social, or political challenges we face. The essays will be judged on clarity, substance, cogency of argument, and liveliness. We are looking for writing that is theologically sophisticated yet accessible to the general reader.

Contest Deadline:
March 1, 2006

Essay Length:
2,500-5,000 words

Eligibility:
Authors must be born on or after January 1, 1956.

How to Enter:
Entries should be forwarded in electronic form to luceprize@commonwealmagazine.org.

Contestants should also provide a one-paragraph summary of their professional and/or academic backgrounds.

Further details are available at our Web site: commonwealmagazine.org/luceprize.

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