



PRAYTICIPATE

Participation through Prayer in the Late
Medieval & Early Modern World

WG3: Immersive Realities of Prayer



Poetics of prayer workshop

18–19 February 2026

organiser: dr Dominika Ruszkiewicz

venue: Ignatianum University in Cracow

The main idea behind this workshop is to bring rhetoric, religion, and poetry into relation by exploring the language (rhetorical principles, conventions, etc.) and communicative situations of selected poems and prayers. Through this, we aim to contribute to the discussion of immersive realities of prayer, as conveyed by textual means.

Aims and format of the workshop

In our focus on immersion in prayer through rhetoric and prosody, we will:

- & analyze prayers in poetic form and poems framed as prayer;
- & explore prayer as a discursive art, as an act of rhetorical persuasion, as a scene of address ;
- & discuss how various literary motifs, rhetorical devices and means of self-construction contribute towards the experience of immersive spirituality;
- & look into how both poetry and prayer enable communication between human and divine beings; and
- & trace the continuity of prayer and poetry in the Christian tradition and the transformations of their various concepts and conventions.

The workshop will be structured around discussions of particular texts, both literary and religious, spanning various cultural traditions and inviting the application of different methodologies, including but not limited to discourse analysis and rhetorical theory.

Planning and timeline

5 December 2025: Candidates submit a text of their choice to be discussed during the workshop, together with a short description of its context and origins, a list of questions to be addressed, and a short bibliography.

30 December 2025: Confirmations of acceptance.

18–19 February 2026: The Poetics of Prayer Workshop.