Editorial

Most Excellent Theophilus,

May I echo our editor’s sentiments in welcoming you to the inaugural issue of *Theophilus: The Student Journal of the Catholic Theological Union*! We embrace your company and appreciate your readership!

Some of you may be confused as to why I am addressing you as Theophilus, when that is obviously the name of the journal which you are reading and on behalf of which I write. The explanation has a lot to do with why this name was chosen for the journal in the first place. Highlighting the reasons behind the title choice of *Theophilus* is the primary purpose of this letter.

As some of you may be aware, Theophilus is the addressee of the New Testament texts “The Gospel According to Luke” and “The Acts of the Apostles.” The name Theophilus is composed of the Greek words “theo” (God) and “philia” (love/friendship). Putting these two words together yields a variety of meanings along the lines of “Lover of God,” “Friend of God,” and “Beloved of God.” Whether taken to mean one who loves God or one whom God loves, theophilus denotes a friendly, loving relationship with Divinity. Furthermore, the name Theophilus can be used as the proper name of an individual or as the descriptive name of an individual or community. Because of this fluidity in meaning, the name Theophilus refers to a universal identity which applies to each and every person who inspires, submits to, reviews, edits, publishes, promotes, and reads *Theophilus*. It is this connection between writer, written word, reader, and Holy Mystery which we wish to foster among the *Theophilus* community by providing a sharing space for the theological work of Catholic Theological Union students as well as an editorial experience for those students who wish to serve on the editorial board of the journal.

Our authors are Theophilus. Our artists are Theophilus. Our editorial team is Theophilus. Our support staff is Theophilus. Our readers are Theophilus. We humbly hope that our project will play a tiny part in encouraging and nurturing individuals and communities that both have love for and are loved by God. If we effectively serve this goal, it will be an honor most excellent.

Peace in Christ,

Stephanie Cherpak

Co-Editor, *Theophilus*