

Top awards for the *Century* from the Associated Church Press

By [Celeste Kennel-Shank](#)

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The first gathering of the Associated Church Press was held in St. Louis in 1916. Last week the ACP returned there to celebrate its 100th anniversary, gather a fine bunch of religion journalists, and hand out [awards for work published in 2015](#).

I accepted two first-place awards of behalf of the *Century* staff: best in class for national and international magazines and best in class for [blogs](#).

We also won seven additional awards honoring specific work from last year. If you missed these pieces when they came out and you're not a subscriber, you can read a few of them online for free—we've returned them temporarily to ["metered" status](#), which means you get a few freebies (whether from this list or from our current content) before being blocked from further access.

Better yet, [subscribe](#) and read them all.

Award of Excellence (first place)

Theological reflection. [Ready for communion: Living in holy space](#), by **Jan Schnell Rippentrop**. Sacramentality is the breath of Christian life—life that springs from the sacraments and life that yearns to return to them.

Audio. [Preachers on Preaching](#), a podcast hosted by **Matt Fitzgerald**. Each weekly episode features a single extended interview.

Award of Merit (second place)

Critical review. [Transparent need](#), by **Kathryn Reklis**. A TV show can present a minority group as "respectable" or as people who are as screwed up as anyone else. *Transparent* goes with option two.

Honorable Mention (third place)

Feature article. [Credible Fears: Central American women seek asylum](#), by **Amy Frykholm**. Last year, the U.S. took thousands of "family units" into custody at the southern border. Nearly every woman cites violence as the reason she fled.

Bible reference. [Dementia and resurrection](#), by **Samuel Wells**. Perhaps it's only when we let go of who and what our loved one was that we can receive who they are now.

Poetry. [What shall we say](#), by **Thomas Lynch**

Poetry. [What it is you would like the stone to say](#), by **Brian Doyle**

This post was updated on May 2, 2016.