TH 226/TH 580: Theology of the Sacraments
Syllabus
S2:2012

DATE: July 16 to July 20, 2012

COURSE DESCRIPTION

For more information on this course, including the official course description and any prerequisites, can be found in the GPS Catalog at http://www.sjcme.edu/gpscatalog/

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Show how the sacraments fit into God’s plan of salvation through the grace of Christ working in the Church.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of classical terminology pertaining to sacramental theology.

3. Understand the main theological emphases of the sacramental teaching of the Council of Trent and the Second Vatican Council.

4. Relate the sacramental characters to the role of the visibility of the Church.

5. Explain significant theological aspects of each of the seven sacraments.

6. Show a familiarity with the history of sacramental theology.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


Required Reading available through ANGEL

Excerpts from Sacred Scripture
Excerpts from the Church Fathers
Excerpts from St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, Treatise on the Sacraments
Council of Trent, The Seventh Session
COURSE INTRODUCTION

TH 226 - Liturgy and Sacraments

This course begins with the study of Christ as Sacrament of God and the Church as Sacrament of Christ. It views the seven sacraments in the light of the liturgical renewal of Vatican II and gives special consideration to the relationship of the sacraments to Christology and Ecclesiology.

TH 580 - Theology of the Sacraments

This course provides a biblical, historical, and theological treatment of the Christian sacraments. It discusses Christ as the primordial sacrament; Church as sacrament; and the individual sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick.

COURSE FORMAT

This course consists of lecture-based classes with class discussions on reading assignments

COURSE GUIDELINES

Class time will consist of lectures and class discussions. Reading and written assignments will be communicated through the ANGEL system, with links to most of the reading material.

TH 226 will have mid-week and final exams taken through ANGEL. TH 580 will have a post-residency assignment due August 31, 2012.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Class Period 1
Topic: Biblical Themes, Church Fathers, and Thomas Aquinas

Required Readings:

Excerpts from Sacred Scripture
Excerpts from the Church Fathers
St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Treatise on the Sacraments

Assignments:

1. Describe St. Paul’s references to the “mystery”. Is revelation self-evident? What is the content of the mystery revealed by God? List the four uses of the term *mystery*. List the five aspects of the Christian Mystery.

2. What does the Latin term “sacrament” connote? Describe its use in the Roman military. What does it imply when used to refer to one’s relationship with God?

3. Explain the Donatist controversy, including the two principles of St. Cyprian of Carthage relevant to the controversy, and Augustine’s attempt at reconciliation, as described in his letters. How was it an ecclesiological issue? What principle regarding the efficacy of the sacraments was Augustine able to contribute to sacramental theology as a result of the Donatist controversy?

4. Provide Aquinas’ response to each question below from the Summa Theologica. It is not necessary to lay out each objection or response to each objection. Simply indicate his answer (yes or no) and a very brief reason for his answer.

Question. 60 - WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?
(1) Whether a sacrament is a kind of sign?
(5) Whether some determinate sensible thing is required for a sacrament?
(6) Whether signification expressed by words is necessary for a sacrament?
(7) Whether determinate words are required?
(8) Whether anything may be added to or subtracted from these words?

Class Period 2
Topic: Council of Trent and the Post-Trent Manuals

Required Readings:

Council of Trent, The Seventh Session
Assignments:

1. What aspects of Aquinas' Treatise of the Sacraments are affirmed in the following canons from the Council of Trent?

   a. CANON VI.-If any one saith, that the sacraments of the New Law do not contain the grace which they signify; or, that they do not confer that grace on those who do not place an obstacle thereunto; as though they were merely outward signs of grace or justice received through faith, and certain marks of the Christian profession, whereby believers are distinguished amongst men from unbelievers; let him be anathema.

   b. CANON VII.-If any one saith, that grace, as far as God's part is concerned, is not given through the said sacraments, always, and to all men, even though they receive them rightly, but (only) sometimes, and to some persons; let him be anathema.

2. Give examples from the post-Trent manuals that demonstrate the use of Aquinas in the sacramental theology of this time period.

Class Period 3

Topic: Second Vatican Council

Required Readings:


*Sacrosanctum Concilium*. Documents of Vatican II

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1066 - 1209

Assignments:

1. What do the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council mean when they say that “the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows?” (*SC 10*) How does this help us to understand why the document on the liturgy was the first document promulgated by the Second Vatican Council?

2. Explain the following passage from Sacrosanctum Concilium: "Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people (1 Pet. 2:9; cf. 2:4-5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism" (*SC 14*)

Class Period 4
Topic: Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

Required Readings:
Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1210 - 1419

Assignments:

1. Define the following terms in light of a general sacramental theology:
   form
   matter
   *anamnesis*
   *epiclesis*
   *ex opere operato*
   grace
   *sacramentum tantum*
   *res et sacramentum*
   *res tantum*
   *in persona Christi capitis*

2. Define each term above for each of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

3. Explain how baptism is a participation in the dying and rising of Christ.

4. Explain how the celebration of the Eucharist is a sacrificial meal.

5. Explain the purpose of Confirmation for the life of the Church.

**Class Period 5**

Topic: Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick
Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Marriage and Holy Orders

Required Readings:
Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1420 - 1666

Assignments:

1. Define each term from the previous assignment for each of the Sacraments of Healing and Communion.

2. Explain the relationship between the Sacraments of Healing and personal conversion.
3. Explain why the Church refers to Marriage and Holy Orders as being "at the service of communion"?

POST-RESIDENCY ASSIGNMENT (TH 580 Only)
Due August 31, 2012

The objective of this paper is to demonstrate a coherent vision of faith with regard to the sacraments that understands the intrinsic connection between the academic study of theology and the spiritual life (i.e. active participation in the sacramental life of the Church), a connection that is so necessary for pastoral work in the Church.

In his encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, John Paul II says,

"….the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world. It unites heaven and earth. It embraces and permeates all creation. The Son of God became man in order to restore all creation, in one supreme act of praise, to the One who made it from nothing. He, the Eternal High Priest who by the blood of his Cross entered the eternal sanctuary, thus gives back to the Creator and Father all creation redeemed. He does so through the priestly ministry of the Church, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity." (*EdeE*, 8)

In a 6-8 page paper (1500-2000 words), using the sacramental theology of the Church studied in this course, explain how each of the seven sacraments, exercised by the priestly (both baptismal and ministerial) ministry of the Church, are the means by which Christ redeems all creation.

Include the following concepts in your analysis:
- the establishment of the covenant sealed by a sacrificial offering
- the faithfulness to an oath of self-sacrifice
- the use of matter and form in the offering
- the power of sacramental grace
- the result of an intimate unity with the Trinity

Conclude your paper with your own understanding of “active participation” in the sacramental life, and the transformative effect that participation.

**COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Current information regarding College policies affecting your course can be found on the Resources/Policy section of the course homepage. On this page, you will find vital information, including the following:

- Current Student Handbook, outlining course-specific policies
- Access to support resources, including advising and online tutorial services
- Student Success Guides
SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Your instructor will provide you with instructions on how to submit your assignments while on campus. Any other submissions, including your post-residency assignment should be submitted through the Assignment Submission Form on your ANGEL course site.

EVALUATION

- Classroom Participation .................................................................20%
- Assignments.................................................................50%
- Final Exam (TH 226)/Post-Residency Research (TH 580)......................30%
Dr. Carmina Magnusen Chapp is a theologian, writer, and educator in the Diocese of Allentown, PA. She has taught theology at DeSales University, LaSalle University, and Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, where she also developed and administered graduate and undergraduate theology programs for the laity. She currently works in Marriage and Family Life and Adult Faith Formation.
HOW DO I ACCESS DISABILITIES SERVICES?

Anyone who would like information or needs access to accommodations or services related to disabilities should contact the college’s Accommodations Office. Please contact your Academic Advisor or refer to the Student Handbook for more information.

This course was developed by Saint Joseph’s College of Maine for the exclusive use of students enrolled in the College’s Division of Graduate and Professional Studies.

For more information on this course, including the official course description and any prerequisites, can be found in the GPS Catalog at http://www.sjcme.edu/gpscatalog/

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