ThS 543 Sacramental Theology / Fall 2003 / Dr. Ford
Syllabus and Schedule

DESCRIPTION

ThS 543 Sacramental Theology is a mystagogical examination of the sacraments and sacramentals of the Catholic Church from a multicultural, anthropological, theological, christological, and ecclesiological perspective, together with an in-depth theological, historical, and liturgical study of the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Liturgical Rites are studied in detail as theologia prima (first theology).

OBJECTIVES

- Accipe oblationem plebis sanctae Deo offerendam. Receive the oblation of the holy people, to be offered to God. Recibe la ofrenda del pueblo santo para presentarla a Dios.
- Agnosce quod ages, imitare quod tractabis, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord’s cross. Considera lo que realizas e imita lo que conmemoras, y conforma tu vida con el misterio de la cruz del Señor.

Rite of Ordination of Presbyters, §135

Upon the successful completion of this course the student will have accomplished the following tasks at a graduate level:

- the student will have an understanding of, and be able to apply to a pastoral setting, the sacraments and sacramentals of the Catholic Church from a multicultural, anthropological, theological, christological, and ecclesiological perspective. **Means of Assessment:** The student will do the reading, participate in the discussions, and write the final examination. **Criteria for Assessment:** Eighty percent of the students will achieve a grade of B or above in mastering the aforementioned assignments.
- the student will have an awareness of (1) the theology of sacramentals (especially blessings and the Order of Funerals) and the sacraments of initiation and of (2) the fundamental issues in explaining and preparing people for and in presiding at these sacramentals and sacraments. **Means of Assessment:** The student will prepare eight mystagogical reflections on the sacraments and sacramentals studied in the course. **Criteria for Assessment:** Eighty percent of the students will achieve a grade of B or above in mastering the aforementioned assignments.
- the student will demonstrate an in-depth theological, historical, and liturgical study of the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. **Means of Assessment:** The student will do the reading, participate in the discussions, and write a final examination. **Criteria for Assessment:** Eighty percent of the students will achieve a grade of B or above in mastering the aforementioned assignments.
- the student will begin the lifelong process of translating theology into the vernacular and use the method of critical thinking in this translating. **Means of Assessment:** The student will engage in
class discussions and take the final examination. **Criteria for Assessment:** Eighty percent of the students will achieve a grade of B or above in mastering the aforementioned assignments.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There are four requirements for a satisfactory grade in this course: (1) reading and reading guides, (2) presence and participation in class and off-campus rites, and diversity awareness in discussions and written work, (3) five mystagogical reflections, and (4) a final take-home examination.

(1) reading and reading guides

Before the date due on the Schedule (see below), you are to read the following required texts. The quality of the discussions will depend on your doing the reading. The general focus of the reading for each lesson is given by the title of the session. The specific issues in the readings will be pointed out by the reading guides. You are also encouraged to browse the recommended texts (listed after the SCHEDULE), some of which are on reserve in the library.

**REQUIRED READING**

- The Rites of the Catholic Church as Revised by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Volume One and Volume Two
- Rito de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos
- The Book of Blessings and/or Bendicional
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church or Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica
- The Ceremonial of Bishops
- The Code of Canon Law (used in Cl 543 Sacramental Ministry and Law)
- The Liturgy Documents I and II and/or Los Documentos Litúrgicos
- The Liturgy Documents I and II
- The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church
- Sacramental Theology or Teología de los sacramentos
- The Church at Prayer or La Iglesia en oración
- Wine and Bread
- The Death of a Christian: The Order of Christian Funerals
- Collection of Readings for ThS 543 Sacramental Theology

Reading assignments are to be completed before each class session. Please keep this expectation in mind when, for the same session, you also have your major project or assimilation project or special report due. Please note: The scheduled reading assignments are to be completed before each class meeting even if the class discussion has lagged behind the Schedule.

**Reading Guides.** In order to prepare you to read the assignments insightfully, to promote reading of the assigned texts, and thus to foster stimulating class discussions, reading guides will be distributed.

You should read each reading guide before you begin the reading. As you read, you should look for the answers to the questions and think of a concise answer in your own words, perhaps jotting down the essence of your own assimilation of the matter at hand. At the end of each reading guide, you will be encouraged to make some notes as to how to pray and to apply the reading and thinking you have just done, to underscore the fact that good theology is always linked to prayer and to action. During the course of class, students will be encouraged to offer prayer along the lines they have sketched on their
reading guides. One or more students will be called upon to discuss the readings as directed by the questions on the reading guides.

(2) presence, participation, and diversity awareness

Firstly, physical attendance at every class and agreed-upon lab is required. If you anticipate an absence, you must request an absence form from the academic office and bring it to the professor during office hours (posted on his office door) or call the professor at home about it. You must explain any unanticipated absences (such as personal sickness or crisis at home) in writing. Missed classes must be made up by special arrangements with the professor (see latest edition of Student Handbook / St. John’s Seminary for details).

Secondly, attentive and active presence to the professor and to everyone in the class is expected. This attentive and active presence involves respect. Please observe the following definition of being Catholic: “Being Catholic means being united with others, to help one another in the case of need, to learn by that which is good in others and to share generously one’s own good, it means trying to become acquainted with one another and accepting each other’s differences” (J. Ratzinger, “The Pastoral Implications of Episcopal Collegiality,” Concilium, I, I, 1965, p. 27).

Finally, following the “Criteria for the Evaluation of Inclusive Language” of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (November 15, 1990; available on my website, http://www.pfords.stjohnsem.edu/PFordsite/Courses.htm), please use horizontally gender-inclusive language wherever and whenever possible. This does not mean changing quoted material or the traditional nouns and pronouns referring to the members of the Christian Trinity. It does mean striving to speak beyond one’s own gender, race, nationality, vocation, and social or economic class.

(3) mystagogical reflections and notes for catecheses

Using the questions described in Discussion One (see “Schedule” for Lesson One), prepare five succinct mystagogical reflections on sacraments and sacramentals you have actually received or witnessed. On funerals, you would be wise to look at the mystagogical summary in the Catechism §§ 1684–1690; on baptism, Catechism §§ 1234–1245; on confirmation, Catechism §§ 1293–1301. Each reflection must be

- typed, double-spaced
- inch and a half margin on the left
- inch margins on the top, bottom, and right side of the page
- every page numbered

Try to avoid footnotes (refer to the rite in parenthesis by the § number). Do not use blank pages. Use regular bond paper and a dark typewriter or printer ribbon. If you use a word processor, your printer should be set in the “letter-quality” model; do not justify the right margin. Respect your work and your teacher enough to spell-check, grammar-check, and proofread your text before turning it in. No title page is needed; just type your name and the name of the sacraments or sacramental you have reflected on at the top of the first page.

As to length, do not be either too sketchy or get carried away. Three pages of 12 pt. (or larger) type are probably too few; five pages of 10 pt. (or smaller) type are probably too many. (See Fr. Sam Ward’s work
as an example of ideal mystagogical reflections—I added the requirement of “notes for catecheses” after his time in the seminary.)

(4) final take-home examination.

The final examination will be a brief take-home examination about the themes of the course. The objects of this examination are (1) to afford you the opportunity to organize and express your thinking about the issues in Sacramental Theology which we have read about and/or discussed together in class thus far this semester and (2) to provide me the opportunity to evaluate the results of your assimilation at this stage in your formation. Seven of the questions on this final examination are given on this page; I reserve the right to add to or subtract from this list.

On this examination I am seeking clear, concise, well-written/spelled/punctuated definitions and discussions which show that Th 543 has heightened, deepened, and sharpened the Sacramental Theology you brought to the class. Two extremes must be avoided: definitions and discussions which betray that the class has had no effect on your pre-September-2003 Sacramental Theology, and definitions and discussions which use post-September-2003 expressions without the kind of assimilation which must support such expressions.

General Sacramental Theology Essays

1) What are the essential implications of understanding the liturgy as the work of the Trinity, especially of the Holy Spirit and the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church [§§1076–1112])?
2) If the sacraments are sacraments of faith (Catechism of the Catholic Church [§1122], how is the word of God involved in the celebration of any sacrament, why is a liturgy of the word required in the celebration of every sacrament and sacramental? What are the liturgical and mystagogical implications?
3) Why is an epiclesis, together with an anamnesis, required in every sacramental celebration (Catechism of the Catholic Church [§§1104–1109 and 1127])?

Baptism-Confirmation Essays

4) If Baptism is the sacrament of faith in a particular way (Catechism of the Catholic Church [§1236], what are the essential reasons why we baptize children and what are the essential conditions which must be met?
5) What are the essential implications of the statement, “God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments” (Catechism of the Catholic Church [§1257])?
6) Why is confirmation fundamental for all states of life and ministries in the Church (Vorgrimler, 130)?

Eucharistic Synthesis Essay

7) What are the four essential implications for a theology of the eucharist and for a general sacramental theology of the Canticle Antiphon for Evening Prayer II of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, especially as they are developed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (§§1130, 1323, 1402):
O sacrum convivium, in quo Christus sumitur, recolitur memoria passionis eius, mens impletur gratia, et futurae gloria nobis pignus datur.

O sacred banquet, in which Christ is consumed, the memory of his passion is recalled, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

¡Oh banquete sagrado, en que Cristo se recibe como alimento, se renueva el recuerdo de su pasión, el alma se llena de gracia y se nos da una prenda de la futura gloria!

**GRADING**

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<td>20</td>
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<td>Mystagogical Reflection Papers</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
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Students who attend all class sessions, participate actively in class, and who submit all their work on time and in good shape can expect to earn the grade of B for this course. Deficiencies in any of these areas will lower the student’s grade. The grade of A is given to students who perform excellently, whose work, participation, and leadership are superior, and whose grasp of the issues raised by the course is outstanding.

About late work: unexplained or inexcusable lateness will result in the reduction of your final grade by one level (e.g., from “B−” to “C+”) for every week any single item is late. About plagiarism: If you quote sources, you must cite them explicitly or else I will fail you on account of plagiarism.

**INSTRUCTOR’S AVAILABILITY**

My hours of availability are posted on the door to my office (St. Catherine’s Hall 308, telephone extension 1064). Please sign up for as much time with me as you think you will need. To speak with me or to arrange an appointment when I am away from the seminary, please leave me an e-mail message at “paulfford@aol.com” or call me at home (805-484-0681)—this e-mail address and this phone number is for your use only; do not give it out to anyone—after 7:30 A.M. and before 9:00 P.M. If I am not there, please leave a message with my wife, Janice Daurio, or leave a message on our home answering machine. In the case of the latter, speak after you hear the tone for as long as you need (there’s up to a half-hour in which to leave your message) and be sure to leave your full name and your telephone number.

**ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**

- Mystagogical Reflection One: My Own Sacramental History  
  Wednesday, September 10
- Mystagogical Reflection Two: Funerals  
  Wednesday, September 17
- Mystagogical Reflection Three: Adult Initiation  
  Monday, October 13
- Mystagogical Reflection Four: Baptism of Children  
  Monday, October 27
- Mystagogical Reflection Five: Confirmation  
  Monday, November 3
- Final Take-home Examination due  
  Wednesday, December 18, by 5:00 P.M.

Every attempt will be made to return your assignments in a timely manner. However, they will be available from me on the day grades are due in the Registrar’s Office (Friday, January 2). Unclaimed materials will be destroyed within thirty days of that date.
SPECIAL PROTOCOLS

Class will begin promptly and lateness will be noted. Do not bring any beverages or snacks into the classroom. Prayer will be a component of most classes; but class will not routinely begin or end with prayer in order to discourage the misuse of prayer as a way to establish order in a group or a way to dismiss a class.

Please consult the course pages on Blackboard™ and on my website: http://www.pford.stjohnsem.edu/

SCHEDULE

KEY:

**Bold Type** indicates the theme(s)

☐ indicates an item to be read before the class meeting on that day.

TEXT means one of the required texts of the class.

ARTICLE means one of the texts distributed in class.

CollR indicates the Collection of Readings

Refer indicates a book in the library Reference Room.

Reserve indicates a book on the Reserve Shelf in the Library.

* indicates a recommended but optional item.

Your first task is to stay on schedule, even if the class discussions lag behind. Begin reading Photina Rech, Wine and Bread, ideally during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays.

Lesson One (Wednesday, September 3, and Monday, September 8)

Mystagogical Reflection on Sacramental Experiences; Blessings


2. What were you/they expecting?


4. What has been reinforced for you?

For Monday, September 8, go to the Blackboard site for this course and download your own copy of the reading guide questions.

☐ CollR, 1 Anthony Bloom on the Body
☐ CollR, 2 Sofia Cavaletti, “The Sign of the Cross”
☐ CollR, 3 2 Kings 2:1–22
Lesson Two (Wednesday, September 10, and Monday, September 15)

The Mystery of Death and Rites for the Dead

Refer  The Ceremonial of Bishops, §§ 821–839


TEXT  Rutherford and Barr, The Death of a Christian: The Order of Christian Funerals, pp. 115–211

TEXT  The Catechism of the Catholic Church §§1680–1690

Lessons Three and Four (Wednesday, September 17, Monday, September 22, Wednesday, September 24, and Monday, September 29)

Theological and Magisterial Preconditions for Sacramental Theology


CollR, 61–62  Vorgrimler’s Themes

TEXT  Vorgrimler, pp. 1–19
Determining the Place of the Sacraments
Themes: The Sacraments as the Church’s Liturgy • The Subject of the Church’s Liturgy • The Presence of Jesus Christ in the Liturgy

The Sacramental Economy of Salvation
Themes: Creation and Election as Sacrament • Jesus Christ as the Primordial Sacrament • Church as Fundamental Sacrament • Individual Sacraments as Actualizations of the Fundamental Sacrament

The Sacraments in General
Themes: The General Concept of a Sacrament • History of General Sacramental Theology • New Testament • The Church Fathers • Middle Ages • The Sacramental Theology of the Reformers • The Church’s Official Sacramental Teaching • The Development of Sacramental Theology after Trent • Limits and Structure of General Sacramental Theology and Doctrine of the Individual Sacraments

Fundamentals of General Sacramental Theology
Themes: Symbolic Liturgical Actions as Mediation of the Presence of God • Effective Symbolic Event • Jesus Christ as Author of the Sacraments • The Number Seven and the Inequality of the Sacraments • Sacrament—Event of the Word of God • Sacrament, Prayer, and Discipleship • Sacraments of Faith • Sacraments as Mediation of Divine Grace • Sacrament and History • Sacraments of the Church

Magisterial Overview
CollR, 63–66 Neuner/Dupuis Points
※ TEXT “Christian Worship and Liturgy” (Chapter XII of The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church)
※ TEXT “The Sacraments of the Church” (Chapter XIII of The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church)
CollR, 67–68 Catechism Contents
TEXT The Catechism of the Catholic Church §§1066–1209
CollR, 70–73 “The Lord who is the Spirit be with you”—“And may the Spirit be also with you”

Your chief task for the month of October is to read mystagogically the first 515 pages of The Rites of the Catholic Church, Volume One, or Rito de Iniciación Christiana de Adultos and The Sacramentary, The Order of the Mass. Do not forget the Sunday Lectionary context of the RCIA.

Visit the library and consult Ages of Initiation: The First Two Christian Millennia, with CD-ROM of Source Excerpts by Paul Turner
Lesson Five (Wednesday, October 1, Monday, October 6, Wednesday, October 8, Monday, October 13, Wednesday, October 15, and Wednesday, October 22)

**Baptism**
Themes: Biblical Foundations • The Rite of Initiation • Historical Decisions • Baptism of Children • Ecumenical Perspectives

- **Refer** The Ceremonial of Bishops, §§ 249–252, 355–376, 404–454
- **TEXT** The Rites of the Catholic Church, Volume One, pp. 1-466
- **CollR, 77-78** Dismissal Catechesis FAQs and Basic Methodology
- **CollR, 78** Easter Vigil Litany
- **TEXT** The Church at Prayer/Volume III: “The Sacraments,” pp. 11–100
- **TEXT** Vorgrimler, pp. 102–121
- **TEXT** The Catechism of the Catholic Church §§1210–1284
- **CollR, 81–84** John Paul II / Holy Wednesday Letter to Priests 1990
- **CollR, 85–95** John Paul II / World Youth Day 1997 Homilies on Baptism and Eucharist
- **CollR, 73–77** Goin’ Roman . . . NOT

Lesson Six (Wednesday, October 24, Monday, October 27, and Monday, October 29)

**Confirmation**
Themes: Biblical Foundations • Historical Decisions

- **Refer** The Ceremonial of Bishops, §§ 455–477
- **TEXT** The Rites of the Catholic Church, Volume One, pp. 467–515 and 844–895, especially 847 (#194) and 887–895
- **TEXT** Vorgrimler, pp. 122–131
- **TEXT** The Catechism of the Catholic Church §§1285–1321
- **CollR, 97** The Meaning of Anointing
- **TEXT** “Baptism and Confirmation” (Chapter XIV of The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church)
- **CollR, 81–84** John Paul II / Holy Wednesday Letter to Priests 1990
- **CollR, 85–95** John Paul II / World Youth Day 1997 Homilies on Baptism and Eucharist
- **CollR, 73–77** Goin’ Roman . . . NOT

Lesson Seven (All Mondays and Wednesdays between November 3 and November 24)

**Eucharist**
Themes: Introduction • Biblical Foundations • The Last Supper Accounts • Other New Testament Texts • Summary and Problems • Concept and Basic Form of the Eucharist • The Fundamental Liturgical Form • The Concept of Eucharist • Historical Stages and Decisions • The Development of a Eucharistic Theology • Concentration on the Real Presence • Scholastic Theology of the Eucharist • Reformation Teaching on the Lord’s Supper • The Real Presence • The Sacrifice of the Mass • The Eucharist and the Office of Priesthood • Vatican Council II • Communion • The Renewal of Eucharistic Theology

- **TEXT** “Eucharist” (Chapter XV of The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church)
- **CollR, 99–102** Innocent and Trent, Sacramental and Spiritual Communion
- **TEXT** Vorgrimler, pp. 132–199
- **CollR, 103–110** Congar, The Holy Spirit in Our Communion with the Body and Blood of Christ
Lesson Eight (Monday, December 1, Wednesday, December 3, and Wednesday, December 10)

**The Sacrament of Marriage**

Themes: Introduction • Biblical Foundations • Old Testament • Jesus and the Jesus Traditions • Paul and the Letter to the Ephesians • Additional Statements • Historical Decisions • The Development of a Theology, Liturgy, and Law of Marriage • Statements of Earlier Church Teaching • Vatican Council II and the New Code of Canon Law • Theology of Marriage: Summary

Refer
- The Ceremonial of Bishops, §§ 598-620
- The Rites of the Catholic Church, Volume One, pp. 715-758
- ColIR, 117 Exhortation before Marriage
- The Church at Prayer/Volume III: “The Sacraments,” pp. 185-207
- Vorgrimler, pp. 283-313
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church §§1601-1666
- “Matrimony” (Chapter XVIII of The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church)

Final Review (Monday, December 15)

Final Take-Home Examination (due by Friday, December 19)