David F. Wright, O.P. Tuesday

Spring 2013 8:45-11:15 am

PURPOSE:

This course is intended for seminarians who are preparing for ordination to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church.

This course advances the mission of Aquinas Institute by assisting the religious seminarian to embrace a theology of priesthood appropriate to a religious manner of life in accordance with the charism of his religious institute.

DESCRIPTION:

A study of the history and theology of priesthood as situated within the broader context of ministry within the Church; an examination of current Church documents on the priesthood; and a consideration of the contemporary challenges of priesthood, with special reflection upon the place of priesthood in religious institutes.

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide the student with a basic understanding of the origins and evolution of the priesthood.
- To provide the student with a basic understanding of the evolution of a theology of priesthood within the Roman Catholic Church.
- To explore the components of a contemporary theology of priesthood which is consonant with authentic tradition and can enable the student to embrace an effective priestly ministry today.

PROCEDURES & EVALUATION:

The course will be conducted in seminar-fashion. In addition to the professor's lectures and class discussions on particular topics, students will write several reflection papers on assigned readings/topics. A final research paper will be due at the time of the last class.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- -The student will need access to the *Documents of Vatican II* and to John Paul II, *Pastores dabo vobis* (*I will give you Shepherds*).
- -Kenan B. Osborne, OFM.

Priesthood: A History of the Ordained Ministry in the Roman Catholic Church. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1988; reprinted: Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2003.

- Susan K. Wood.

Sacramental Orders. [Lex Orandi Series] Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2000.

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

- Thomas F. O'Meara, OP.

Theology of Ministry. Completely Revised Edition. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1999.