

Sacramental and Theological Foundations of Ministry

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PST-D565
DOM-D510

Mondays
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

3 credits
Spring, 2014

Course Description

This course examines the theological and sacramental foundations of contemporary Christian ministry, with a special emphasis on ministry in the Roman Catholic Church. Students will survey the evolution of ministry from biblical times to the present, examine the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Orders as a foundation for contemporary theologies of both lay and ordained ministry, and explore new ministerial questions surfacing in the Church today.

Course Objectives

- to articulate clearly the Church's understanding of the sacrament of Orders as found in the *Rite of Ordination* and magisterial teaching
- to explain relationship between the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, and Orders as they relate to ministry in the Church
- to trace the main lines of theological thought concerning the evolution of Christian ministry, paying particular attention to developing roles of lay ministry and a contemporary theology of consecrated life
- to address the major contemporary questions pertaining to the sacrament of orders, including but not limited to: the candidate for holy orders, priestly character, the role of the diaconate, priesthood in religious life, and lay ministry
- to identify ecumenical concerns pertaining to the sacrament of Orders
- to develop, examine, and articulate an operative theology of ministry with conscious of the wider theological tradition, and ecclesiological and personal implications

Evaluation

- Major Paper 70%
- Class presentations 10%
- Midterm Oral Examination 10%
- Class Participation 10%

Students should normally expect a “B” unless their work demonstrates that they are not doing what is minimally expected or that they are doing superior work. The decision on the grade will be based on class participation, class presentations, completion of assigned readings, and written assignments.

Required Texts

- Levering, Matthew. *Christ and the Catholic Priesthood: Ecclesial Hierarchy and the Pattern of the Trinity*. Chicago: Hillenbrand Books, 2010.
- Nichols, Aidan. *Holy Order: Apostolic Priesthood from the New Testament to the Second Vatican Council*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011.
- Osbourne, Kenan. *Priesthood: A History of the Ordained Ministry in the Roman Catholic Church*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2003.
- Philibert, Paul. *The Priesthood of the Faithful: The Key to a Living Church*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2005.

Other selected readings from other sources will be made available to the students..