

Christian Initiation: Baptism and Confirmation

LIT-D511

Joseph Milner

3 Credits

Monday 1:00 – 3:30

Description

This course is primarily a study of the contemporary Roman Catholic rites of baptism and confirmation in light of the history and theology of these rites. Special emphasis will be given to the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* and its pastoral implementation. Select issues in current pastoral practice such as infant baptism, the age of confirmation, the sequence of the sacraments and the reception of baptized Christians will be addressed.

Objectives:

Students will become knowledgeable of the history of Christian initiation, develop an ability to analyze a liturgical rite, develop the ability to use liturgical history to understand present practice, and develop skills in expressing the theology of Christian initiation practice.

Procedures:

Students will accept the responsibility of reading required texts with care, engage in class discussions through dialogue, asking questions or answering questions and participate in at least two of the Christian Initiation rites during the course.

Evaluation:

I Historical Section: Mid-term exam 25%

II RCIA Section:

a) 2 page essay on the ecclesiology or theology of initiation as presented in the General Introductions to the ritual Ordo 15%

b) 3 page analysis of the Rite of Election from the adult Ordo 20%

III Pastoral Issues: Final paper: a position paper on a key pastoral issue 30%

IV Class Participation: Grading of class participation will be judged on your efforts to enhance class discussion through informed reflection on reading assignments and on your efforts to make connections with your pastoral experience. Questions are welcomed as much as emerging insights.

Required Texts:

Austin, Gerard. *Anointing with the Spirit: The Rite of Confirmation*. Collegeville: Pueblo, 1985.

Johnson, Maxwell E. ed. *Living Water, Sealing Spirit*. Collegeville: Pueblo., 1995.

Johnson, Maxwell. *The Rites of Christian Initiation*. Collegeville: Pueblo., 2007.

Morris, Thomas. *The RCIA: Transforming the Church*. Rev. ed. NY: Paulist Press, 1997.

Turner, Paul. *Hallelujah Highway*. Chicago: LTP, 2000.

Additional articles from the electronic reserves.

Ritual texts:

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, ICEL/USCC 1988.

You will need access to:

Rite of Baptism of Children, 1969

Rite of Confirmation, 1971

Recommended Texts:

Turner, Paul. *When Other Christians Become Catholic*. Collegeville: Pueblo, 2007.

Huels, John M. *The Catechumenate and the Law*. Chicago: LTP, 1994