



Dominican Institute, Samonda, Ibadan
In affiliation with Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (PUST), Angelicum, Rome
DI/TH 440: Theology of the Church (Ecclesiology) I
First Semester
2022/2023 Academic Session

Course Instructor: Fr. John-Mark Igboalisi, O.P.

Course Hour: Thursday 8:15-9:55am

Course Description

This is the first of a two-part study of the course on the Theology of the Church also known as Ecclesiology. In this semester, we will explore the nature and mission of the Church in the context of the mystery and history of Salvation. Our sources will be Scripture, patristic traditions, conciliar and ecclesiastical writers both in their primary and secondary texts as we examine key theological themes, issues, and questions that pertain to the nature and mission of the Church. The course will incorporate a historical perspective that will help elucidate the self-understanding and self-expression of the Church. The objective is to understand the importance of the Church in the economy of salvation.

Course Requirements:

- Each student is required to read the assigned weekly text(s) prior to every lecture and participate actively in class.
- There will be summaries and quizzes.
- Each student is required to write a major essay of between 10 – 15 pages on an image/symbol of the Church as expounded by a patristic or an ecclesiastical writer. The images of the Church as people of God and the mystical body of Christ are excluded from consideration. **The deadline for the submission of the essay is on December 23, 2022.**

Course Grading

Summaries - 10%

Quizzes -10%

Class participation – 10%

Research paper – 25%

Semester exam – 45%

Marking scheme for Research Papers

- a. Comprehension of the subject matter - 60%
- b. Coherence and logic - 15%

- c. Grammar (syntax, punctuation, tenses, and spellings) - 10%
- d. Creativity and personal insight - 5%
- e. Relevant Bibliography and References - 10%

Bibliography

References

Benoît-Dominique de la Soujeole, *Introduction to the Mystery of the Church* (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America, 2014).

Guy Mansini, *Ecclesiology* (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America, 2021).

Richard R. Gaillardetz, *Teaching with Authority: A Theology of the Magisterium in the Church* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1997).

Raymond Brown et al. Eds, *Mary in the New Testament: A Collaborative Assessment by Protestant and Roman Catholic Scholars* (London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1978)

John D. Zizioulas, *Eucharist, Bishop Church: The Unity of the Church in the Divine Eucharist and the Bishop During the First Three Centuries* (Massachusetts: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2001).

Markus Bockmuehl & Michael Thompson, *A Vision of the Church: Studies in Early Christian Ecclesiology in Honour of J. P. M. Sweet* (Edinburg, T & T Clark, 1997).

Rudolf Schnackenburg, *The Church in the New Testament* (New York: Seabury Press, 1965).

Paul McPartlan, *Sacrament of Salvation: An Introduction Eucharistic Ecclesiology* (Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark, 2000).

John P. Meier, *The Mission of Christ and His Church: Study on Christology and Ecclesiology* (Wilmington, DE: Michael Glazier Inc., 1990).

Joseph A. Komonchak, *Who are the Church?* (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2008).

Matthew L. Lamb and Matthew Levering, eds., *The Reception of Vatican II* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).



Bernard P. Prusak, *The Church Unfinished: Ecclesiology Through the Centuries* (New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2004)

Bonaventure Kloppenburg, *The Ecclesiology of Vatican II* (Chicago: Franciscan Herald, 1970).

Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*.

John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater* and *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*.

Other relevant readings will be suggested as the course progresses.

Schedule of Readings:

Week 1 October 13

Introduction

- The Church as mystery
- The meaning of *Ekklēsia* in Scripture

Benoit-Dominic de la Soujeole, *Introduction to the Mystery of the Church*. pages 347-355.

Week 2 October 20

Church in New Testament

- The Jewish Roots
- New Testament Understanding of the Church

Rudolf Schnackenburg, *The Church in the New Testament*, page 55-117.

Markus Bockmuehl & Michael Thompson, *A Vision of the Church: Studies in Early Christian Ecclesiology*, pages 1-64, 79-120.

Week 3 October 27

Images and Symbols of the Church I: Church as the People of God

- Biblical foundations
- Patristic teachings
- Scholastic articulation and modern developments
- Second Vatican Council

Benoit-Dominic de la Soujeole, *Introduction to the Mystery of the Church*, pages 199-277.

Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*

Week 4 November 3

Images and Symbols of the Church II: Church as the Mystical Body of Christ

- Pauline Foundation
- Patristic Understanding of the Church as Mystical Body of Christ
- Scholastic notion of the Church as Mystical Body of Christ
- Modern rediscovery of the notion of the Church as mystical body of Christ

Benoit-Dominic de la Soujeole, *Introduction to the Mystery of the Church*, pages 61-132.

Week 5 November 10

Properties/Marks of the Church I

- The Church is one
- The Church is holy

Benoit-Dominic de la Soujeole, *Introduction to the Mystery of the Church*, pages 515-551.

Guy Mansini, *Ecclesiology*, chap. 12

Week 6 November 17

Properties/Marks of the Church II

- The Church is catholic
- The Church is apostolic

Benoit-Dominic de la Soujeole, *Introduction to the Mystery of the Church*, pages 563-621.

Week 7 November 24

The Authority of the Church and the Questions of Indefectibility of the Church

- The nature of leadership/authority
- Source of authority
- Question of indefectibility/infallibility of the Church

Richard R. Gaillardetz, *Teaching with Authority: A Theology of the Magisterium in the Church*, part one and part two.

Benoit-Dominic de la Soujeole, *Introduction to the Mystery of the Church*, ch. 17.

Week 8 December 1

Church and the Eucharist

- New Testament eucharistic ecclesiology
- Patristic eucharistic ecclesiology: Ignatius of Antioch
- Scholastic Eucharistic ecclesiology
- Vatican II and Post-Vatican II Eucharistic ecclesiology



John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*.

Paul McPartlan, *Sacrament of Salvation*, xiii-xviii; 1-13

John D. Zizioulas, *Eucharist, Bishop, Church*, pages 9-263.

Ignatius of Antioch, *The Seven Letters*

Week 10 December 8

Church and the Salvific Mission of Christ

- The Church continues the mission of Christ
- The necessity of the Church for Salvation
- Cyprian and Augustine vision of Church
- The Salvation of Non-Christians

Cyprian: *De unitate ecclesiam catholicae*;

Cyprian, *Letter 69*, 1-5;

Augustine, *On Baptism V*, 27.38-28.39

Week 11 December 15

No lecture: Work on your research paper

Week 12 January 12

Church and the Blessed Virgin Mary

- Mary as model and symbol of the Church
- Mary in the New Testament Church
- Mary in Christian tradition
- Second Vatican II's teaching on Mary: daughter and mother of the Church

Raymond E. Brown, *Mary in the New Testament*, chs 4-8

John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater*

Week 13 January 19

No lecture: Work on your take home-exam

End of Semester Lectures