

Dominican Institute, Samonda, Ibadan

In affiliation with Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (PUST), Angelicum, Rome

DI/TH 220: Introduction to Patrology I

First Semester

2020/2021 Academic Session

Course Instructor: Fr. Emeka Nwosuh, OP

Course Hour: Friday 11:15-1:40pm

Office Hours: Fridays: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Course Description

The study of the Fathers which is of great use to everyone, is *absolutely necessary* for those who care about the theological, pastoral and spiritual renewal promoted by the Council and wish to cooperate in it...Patristic thought is Christ centered. It is an example of a unified, living theology matured in contact with the problems of the pastoral ministry. It is an excellent model of catechesis, source of knowledge about sacred Scripture and Tradition, as well as about the whole human person and true Christian identity.... Every charism and every ministry must draw from the vital source of their fatherhood, and every new stone, added to the sacred edifice...must be set in the structures already placed by them, and be welded and joined to them. – St. John Paul II, *Patres Ecclesiae*, 1980, cited in *Instruction on the Study of the Fathers of the Church in the Formation of Priests*, 12.

The above quotation highlights the importance of the study of the Fathers of the Church not just for the theological enterprise but also for the entire Christian faith and life. This two-part introductory course on Patrology will expose students to the lives, thoughts, and works of major Church Fathers, Ecclesiastical Writers, and occasionally, non-orthodox thinkers. A combination of approaches will be adopted in this course. These include thematic, diachronic and topographical approaches. Students will be required to read excerpts of works of key Church Fathers to familiarize themselves with these Pillars of the Church and to appreciate their major contributions to the development of the catholic faith and theology. The first part of this course will examine the works and lives of the Fathers up to the third (3rd) century of the early Church.

Goal

- To develop a strong and enduring passion and love of the Fathers of the Church among students of Patrology

Course Objectives

- To familiarize students with the major writers and writings of the Patristic era
- Assist students to acquire the ability to read, understand and interpret Patristic texts
- To teach students to understand and appreciate the various dynamics forces that helped shape the Christian faith particularly in the early centuries of its existence.
- Help students learn how to employ the rich and vast Patristic resources in engaging in sound theological reflection and discourse.
- To enable students, learn how to engage in productive theological dialogue between the past and the present

Students Learning Outcome

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- i. Read and interpret the writings of major church Fathers
- ii. Use and cite the church Fathers as a major theological source in theological research

Requirements

- Each student will be required to read the assigned text(s) prior to every lecture.
- Each student is to submit four (4) critical summaries of the primary works of four different church Fathers, two each from Greek and Latin Fathers. Each of the summary **should not exceed three (3) pages**, (Specifications single-line spacing; 12 points size; New Times Roman fonts; Margin spacing 1" top and bottom, both sides). **Students are required obtain prior approval for the work of the Church Father selected for the summary.** Works without prior approval will be rejected. *The summaries must be based on a reading of the primary text and not on secondary texts.*

!!! Students are warned to refrain from any form of plagiarism. Plagiarism is a grave offence that attracts rustication from the Institute for a minimum period of one academic calendar. PLEASE BE WARNED!!! .

Deadlines

Approval

Submission

First Critical Summary	October 23	November 7
Second Critical Summary	November 13	November 28
Third Critical Summary	December 3	December 13
Fourth Critical Summary	January 8	January 20

Grading

Critical Summaries	– 60%
Semester Exam	– 40%

Required Readings

- ❖ Primary Texts of the Church Fathers (available online)
- ❖ Boniface Ramsey, *Beginning to Read the Fathers*. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1985.
- ❖ Congregation for Catholic Education: *Instruction on the Study of The Fathers of the Church in the Formation of Priests* (available online)
- ❖ Johannes Quasten, *Patrology* 4 vols. Westminster, MD: Newman Press, 1945 (Electronic Versions of vols. 1-3 available)
- ❖ John Paul II, *Patres Ecclesiae* (available online)
- ❖ Newman on the Church Fathers
- ❖ Phillip S. Esler, *The Early Christian World*, vols. I & II. (London/New York: Routledge), (Electronic Copy Available)
- ❖ S. Angus, *The Environment of Early Christians* (New York: Charles Scribner's Son, 1915) Electronic Copy Available)

Additional Readings

- ❖ Aaron Milavic, *The Didache: Texts, Translations, Analysis, & Commentary*, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 2003.
- ❖ Andrian Fortescue, *The Greek Fathers: Their Lives and Writings*, San Francisco: Ignatius Press 2007.
- ❖ Christopher A. Hall, *Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers*. Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1998.
- ❖ _____, *Learning Theology with the Church Fathers*, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- ❖ Charles Kannengiesser, *Early Christian Spirituality*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

- ❖ Clayton N. Jefford, *The Apostolic Fathers and the New Testament*, Hendrickson Publishers, 2006.
- ❖ Francis Young et al. (eds.). *The Cambridge History of Early Christian Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) (Electronic Copy Available)
- ❖ Eduard Syndicus, *Early Christian Art, Faith and Fact Books Series 116*, London: Burns & Oates,
- ❖ Gillian Clark, *Christianity and Roman Society* (Cambridge: University Press) Electronic Copy Available
- ❖ Hans von Campenhausen, *The Fathers of the Greek Church*, trl. S. Godman. New York: Pantheon, 1955.
- ❖ Harold Mattingly, *Christianity in the Roman Empire*, New York: W. W. Norton & Coy., 1967
- ❖ Hubertus R. Drobner, *The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Intro.*, Hendrickson Publishers, 2007
- ❖ J. N. D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines*, Revised Ed. San Francisco: HaperSanFrancesco, 1978.
- ❖ Manlio Simonetti, *Biblical Interpretation in the Early Church: An Historical Introduction to Patristic Exegesis*, trl. A. Hughes. Edinburgh/New York: T & T Clark, 1994.
- ❖ Patricia Wilson-Kastner et al., *A Lost Tradition: Women Writers in the Early Church*, Lanham: University Press of America, 1981.
- ❖ Peter Pan, *Social Thought: Message of the Fathers of the Church*, vol. 20. Delaware: Michael Glazier, 1984.
- ❖ Phillips Hughes, *A History of the Church*, vols. 1 & 2. London: Sheed and Ward.
- ❖ R. A. Norris, *God and World in Early Christian Theology*. New York: The Seabury Press, 1965.
- ❖ Stephen Benko, *Pagan Rome and the Early Christians*, Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1984.
- ❖ W. A. Jurgens, *The Faith of the Early Fathers*, 3 vols. Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1979.

Students can find some of the above materials and other related materials on www.b-ok.org and www.pdfdrive.com

Schedule of Readings

Week 1 Oct 09 General Introduction to the Study of Patrology and Patristic Literature

Quasten, *Patrology I*, pp 1-22; Drobner, *The Fathers of The Church*. Pp. 3-12

Ramsey, B. *Beginning To Read The Fathers*, pp.1-21

Week 2 Oct 16 Introduction Continued

Congregation for Catholic Education: *Instruction on the Study of The Fathers of the Church in the Formation of Priests* (available online)

Week 3 Oct 23 The World and Contexts of the Church Fathers

(Mark Humphries, Early Christianity)

Week 4 Oct 30 Early Forms and Genres of Christian Literature

Quasten, *Patrology I*, pp. 23-39.

Drobner, *The Fathers of The Church*. Pp. 9-45

Kelly, J.N.D., *Early Christian Doctrines*, pp. 29-51

Week 5 Nov 6 The Testimonies of the Subapostolic/Postapostolic Fathers

- The Didache
- The First Letter of S. Clement

- The Shepherd of Hermas
- Ignatius of Antioch
- Papias

Quasten, *Patrology I*, pp 40-105; Drobner, *The Fathers of The Church*. Pp. 45-62

Jefford, C. N., *The Apostolic Fathers and the New Testament, Introduction, chaps 1-4 & Conclusion*

Milavic, *The Didache, Text, Translation, Analysis, and Commentary*

Week 6 Nov 13 The Early Greek Apologists

- Justin Martyr—*1 & 2 Apology, Dialogue*
- Tatian
- Athenagoras

Quasten, *Patrology I*, pp 186-253; Campenhausen, H., *The Fathers of the Greek Church*, pp. 12-20

Drobner, *The Fathers of The Church*. Pp. 63-91

Norris, R. A., *God and World in Early Christian Theology*, pp. 41-70

Week 7 Nov 20 Literatures on Christian Martyrdom

- Acts of Martyrs
- The Passions of Martyrs
- Legends
- The martyrdom of Polycarp

Quasten, *Patrology* vol. 1, pp. 176-185

Charles Kannengiesser, *Early Christian Spirituality*, pp. 82-100

Drobner, *The Fathers of The Church*, pp. 92-103

Ramsey, *Beginning to Read the Fathers*, pp. 122-135

Week 8 Nov 27 Early Heresies and Heretical Literatures

- Docetism
- Subordinationism/Adoptionism
- Gnosticism—, Valentinus Basilides,
- Sabellianism
- Marcionism
- Montanism

Quasten, *Patrology I*, pp 254-274.

Drobner, *The Fathers of The Church*. Pp. 104-116

Norris, R. A., *God and World in Early Christian Theology*, pp. 71-80

Week 9 Dec 4 Anti-Heretical Writings

- Irenaeus of Lyons—*Adversus Haeresus, Epideixis*
- Hippolytus of Rome—*Refutatio omnium haeresium; Traditio apostolic.*

Quasten, *Patrology I*, pp 278-313; Campenhausen, H., *The Fathers of the Greek Church*, pp. 21-28

Drobner, *The Fathers of The Church*. Pp. 117-125

Norris, R. A., *God and World in Early Christian Theology*, pp. 81-98

Week 10 Dec 11 The Early North Africans Writers

- Tertullian—*Ad nationes & Apologeticus, De praescriptione haereticorum, Ad Marcionem, Ad Praxean*

- Cyprian of Carthage—*De lapsis, De catholicae ecclesiae unitate*
Drobner, *The Fathers of The Church*. Pp. 149-186
Norris, R. A., *God and World in Early Christian Theology*, pp. 99-128

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Week 11 Jan 8 The Early Alexandrians Fathers

- The influence of Philo
- The Alexandrian School
- Clement of Alexandria—*Protrepticus*, *Paedagogus*; *Stromata*

Campanhausen, H., *The Fathers of the Greek Church*, pp. 29-56
Drobner, *The Fathers of The Church*. Pp. 126-148
Norris, R. A., *God and World in Early Christian Theology*, pp. 139-158

Week 12 Jan 15 The Early Alexandrians Fathers contd.

- Origen—*De Principiis*, *Contra Celsum*, *Commentary and homily on the Song of Songs*

Week 13 Jan 22 Fathers of Asia Minor, Syria, and Palestine

- The Antiochean School & The School of Caesarea
- Gregory Thaumaturgos
- Julius Africanus

Quasten, J., *Patrology* vol. II, pp. 121-152.

END OF COURSE – PART ONE