

Josephinum Diaconate Institute

BI712DE – The Letters of Saint Paul

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Ἐμοὶ γὰρ τὸ ζῆν Χριστὸς καὶ τὸ ἀποθανεῖν κέρδος

(Phil. 1.21)

Instructor:

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Course Overview:

Course Objectives: What would I want you to remember 10 years from now?

- The core of Paul’s life is Jesus Christ Crucified and Risen!
- This core is both an encounter/experience and a knowledge which live on well after the historical event in Paul’s and the Church’s life.
- For Paul, Christ Crucified/Risen is in ...
 - a **theology** that is actually a **staurology** (derived from the Greek word for cross [stauro/β]), a theology of the Cross;
 - Paul receives his encounter and understanding of it by a particular kind of **Revelation**, namely, a divinely initiated knowledge (**epignosis**; Gk = e`pi÷gnwsisβ), which brings its own grace to assist humans in receiving it;
 - when this **Revelation** and **Divine Knowledge** are grasped, we are in the process of being saved;
 - Paul calls this kind of salvation “mystery” (Gk: musth/rion), a divine secret now revealed, with such clarity, beauty and power that it is, itself, a manifestation of salvation. This “mystery” the foundation of our sacraments.

In the twelve weeks of this course, the student will cover:

1. Introduction & Overview of Course
2. *Lectio divina* – receiving the Word of God
3. *Dei Verbum* – Inspiration, Inerrancy, Interpretation
4. SS as sacramental witness to historical Revelation
5. The Letter Form of the Pauline Letters
6. Intro to Paul (Background and Chronology)
7. Theme – Revelation (*apocalypsōs*)
8. Theme – Divine knowledge (*epignosis*)
9. I Thessalonians – Intensive reading
10. II Thessalonians – Intensive reading
11. Philemon – Manipulation or Persuasion
12. Ephesians – Corpus Capstone; subordination

Course Elements:

- Lectio Divina: The practice of silent prayer with Scripture, as a way of opening our hearts and mind to the mystery of God.
- Major Presentation – Introduces & develops content
- Conference Calls – After modules 2, 4,11
- Forums – Participation required for all modules.
- Assessment: Quiz (on *Dei Verbum*), Quiz (on Gray’s book); completed Pauline letter form; three homilies (weekday; funeral/vigil prayer; baptism @ Mass); daily journal from prayer with *lectio divina*

Requirements:

1. Quizzes:
 - a. *Dei Verbum* (multiple choice, open book)
 - b. Gray’s book (multiple choice, open book)
2. Letter Form: Completed Pauline Letter Chart
3. Homilies:
 - a. *Weekday Mass* – 4 pages, double spaced, for oral delivery of no longer than 4 minutes.
 - b. *Funeral Mass or Vigil Prayer* (select one: child, teen, adult) – 5 pages, double spaced, for oral delivery of no longer than 7 minutes.
 - c. *Baptism @ Mass* (select one: child, teen, adult – 5 pages, double spaced, for oral delivery of no longer than 7 minutes.
4. Participation in Forums (4X).
5. Conference calls (3x).
6. Journal for lectio divina: Very brief daily reflections/reactions, include date, time stamp, location for each daily session.

Assignments & Weighted Values:

- Quiz – *Dei Verbum* 30%
- Quiz – Gray’s book, letter form..... 10%
- Completed Pauline Letter Chart 10%
- Homilies:
 - Weekday Mass 10%
 - Funeral Mass or Vigil Prayer 10%
 - Baptism @ Mass..... 10%
 - Forums (4 x 4% = 16..... 15%
- Journal for *lectio divina*..... 5%

Required Texts:

- Donald Senior, John Collins, Mary Ann Getty (Editors), *The Catholic Study Bible*^{3rd} (New York, NY: Oxford University Press [March 1, 2016]) ISBN-10: 0199362777; ISBN-13: 978-0199362776
- Gray, Patrick. *Opening Paul's Letters: A Reader's Guide to Genre and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.
- Magrassi, Mariano, *Praying the Bible: An Introduction to Lectio Divina*, Trans. Edward Hagman, O.F.M. Cap. (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1998).
- Colledge, Edmund OSA and Walsh, James, SJ, Translators & Editors, *Guigo II: Ladder of Monks and Twelve Meditations* (Cistercian Publications: Kalamazoo, MI/ Spencer MA, 1979).

Bibliography:

General Bible Commentaries:

- Brown, R. E., et. al., *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary* (Englewood Cliffs, NY: Prentice Hall, 1990).
- Farmer, William R., *The International Bible Commentary* (Collegeville MN: Liturgical Press, 1998).

Concordances:

- For the New American Bible, see <http://www.catholiccrossreference.com/bible/nab-search.cgi>
- For the RSV, use Ellison, John W. [John William], *Nelson's Complete Concordance of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible* (New York: Nelson, c1957) FUS Ref: BS425 .E4.

NB: Concordances used for finding out where words occur in the Bible should match the translation you are using

Dictionaries and Reference Works:

Some of these are older works but still valuable.

- Léon-Dufour, Xavier. *Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. 2nd ed. New York: Seabury, 1973.
- Freedman, David Noel, ed. *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin, et al. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- J. J. Collins and D.C. Harlow (eds.), *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism* Grand Rapids and Cambridge, UK: Eerdmans, 2010.
- Sakenfeld, K. D. et. al., (eds.), *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. [multi-

volumes] Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press [years?].

- McKenzie, John L., S.J., *Dictionary of the Bible*⁸. New York: McMillian, 1973.
- Spicq, Ceslas, *Theological Lexicon of the New Testament*. Trans. & ed. James D. Ernest. 3 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.
- Halfmann, Janet, et. al. (Eds.) *New Catholic Encyclopedia*². Detroit: Thomson/Gale (ongoing supplements as well; 1907 edition still useful).
- [Jewish Encyclopedia 12 Vols, Jewish History Ancient Scholarship](#) (Jewish background).
- <http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/encyclopedi.php?lst=P>

Lectio Divina:

- Casey, Michael, *Sacred Reading: The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina* (Liguori, MO: Liguori/Triumph, 1995).
- Colledge, Edmund OSA and Walsh, James, SJ, Translators & Editors, *Guigo II: Ladder of Monks and Twelve Meditations* (Cistercian Publications: Kalamazoo, MI/ Spencer MA, 1979).
- Deglaire, Roselyne and Guichard, Joëlle (Trans. Teresa Hawes). *Fifteen Days of Prayer With Father Marie-Eugène of the Child Jesus, Carmelite, Founder of Notre-Dame de Vie*. (Staten Island, NY: Alba House, 2009).
- Dubay, Thomas, "Gazing On The Beauty Of The Lord," *This Rock* (February 2003) (<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=5069>).
- Kardong, Terrence, G., O.S.B., "Chewing the Text: Early Monastic *lectio divina* of the Bible," *Canadian Catholic Review* (November, 1993): 7-10.
- LeClercq, Dom Jean, OSB., "Lectio Divina" *Worship* 58 (May 1984):239-248.
- Magrassi, Mariano, *Praying the Bible: An Introduction to Lectio Divina*, Trans. Edward Hagman, O.F.M. Cap. (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1998).
- Masini, Mario, *Lectio Divina: An Ancient Prayer That Is Ever New* (New York: Alba House, 1998).
- Vogüé, de, Adalbert, O.S.B., "Daily Readings in Monasteries," *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* (1991): 286-294.