Josephinum Diaconate Institute

BI712DE – The Letters of Saint Paul
“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

“Εμοί 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 staurollogy (derived from the Greek word for cross [stauro/ß]), 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÷gnwsiß), 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 (apocalypsös)
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:

- 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:


Concordances:

- For the New American Bible, see http://www.catholiccrossreference.com/bible/nab-search.cgi


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.

- Sakenfeld, K. D. et. al., (eds.), The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible. [multi-
volumes] Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press [years?].

- *Jewish Encyclopedia 12 Vols*, *Jewish History Ancient Scholarship* (Jewish background).

Lectio Divina:

- Colledge, Edmund OSA and Walsh, James, SJ, Translators & Editors, *Guigo II: Ladder of Monks and Twelve Meditations* (Cistercian Publications: Kalamazoo, MI/ Spencer MA, 1979).