

Josephinum Diaconate Institute

BI712DE – The Letters of Saint Paul and the Acts of the Apostles

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

Ἐμοὶ γὰρ τὸ ζῆν Χριστὸς καὶ τὸ ἀποθανεῖν κέρδος

(Phil. 1.21)

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÷gnwsiβ), 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* – No more than 2 pages, double spaced, for oral delivery of no longer than 4 minutes.
 - b. *Funeral Mass or Vigil Prayer* (select one: child, teen, adult) – 3 pages, double spaced, for oral delivery of no longer than 7 minutes.
 - c. *Baptism @ Mass* (select one: child, teen, adult – 3 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 Gambridge, 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: McMillan, 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/encyclopedia.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.