

CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

Class number: 9807

Online*

*NOTE: Required synchronous online sessions, Tuesday evenings at 7:00p.m. CST

Instructor: Robert O’Gorman

Description:

The study of the church is a study of our relationship with Christian memory/tradition: its formation and origin, its embodiment, its container or temple, and its agency of development. The church arises as a community of the Hebrew tradition experiencing its memory of the historical Jesus/risen Christ. This memory/tradition lives incarnated in the lives of the members of the church -- past present and future. The story of the memory/tradition is articulated, contained and safeguarded in the structured church. The memory/tradition is continually developing and renewing in the context of church and culture’s interaction. Too often *tradition* and *church*, as concepts, are imagined as objects and structures rather than as realities incarnated in our living selves.

Today we take up this course at a time when many struggle with their ministry and very survival as part of the church/tradition. This course engages both historical (heart) and theoretical (head) approaches to comprehending church. Historically, roots of the church in Judaism are the initial foundation to our experiences from Jesus to Augustine, Christendom, Tridentine Reform, Modernity, Vatican II and Globalization. Each of these periods mirrors paradigms or overarching theory interpreting history and shaping actions.

The first half of our course -- an interplay of the historical facts and paradigms -- will equip us with knowledge to engage today's struggle for survival of ecclesial ministry. In the second half of the course then (as we now begin to settle into the initial decades of the first century of the third millennium) we will center on contemporary experiences of church: Feminization, Spiritualization, Globalization and Partnership. We will attempt to understand these experiences from an emerging paradigm based on the New Universe Story emerging from quantum physics so as to shape our present actions in light of the *ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC* and *APOSTOLIC* framework of ecclesial identity.

Required Texts:

The Catholic Church: A Short History /Hans Küng PAPER BACK EDITION Modern Library, 2003

Ecclesiology for a Global Church: A People Called and Sent /Richard R. Gaillardetz. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2008

The Holy Web: Church and the New Universe Story / Cletus Wessels. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2000

An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives / Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2002

Lumen Gentium & Gaudium et Spes (available on the internet):

- http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html and
- http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

Syllabus

A Framework to examine the Church:

“Church is the name one gives to the social reality that is coming into being where the gospel is healing human meaning. ... the gospel transforms human reality through the very processes of human communication. ... by direct proclamation (creed), by prayerful celebration (cult), and by service to human needs (code).”¹ The three categories of *word* (creed), *celebration* (cult), and *care* (code) serve to structure both our historical survey of Church and the analysis of present ministries of Church as such.

Topics and Divisions of the Course

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Part 1: Historical Periods

I. Hebrew background to Augustine to 450 c.e.

¹ Marianne Sawicki, *The Gospel in History*, p. 35; see Edward Farley, *Ecclesial Reflection*, pp. 252-8.

- Jesus' Community
- Textual Formation
- Constantine & Augustine
- II. Christendom 450-1500
 - Papacy
 - Conciliarism
- III. Reform 1500-1960
 - Protestantism
 - The Catechism – identity as doctrine
 - Rationalism & Nationality: the split in culture: spiritual, intellectual, political, social
 - Revolution and the 19th Century
 - i. Liberal movements and Catholic reaction
 - ii. Pius IX 1846-1878 and Leo XIII 1878-1903 -- Vatican I
 - iii. Catholic Modernism
 - iv. U.S. Catholicism
- IV. Vatican II 1960
 - Key Council Documents of Church Self-Understanding
 - Restorationism

Part 2: Challenges and the New Cosmology

- I. The New Story
- II. ONE: Women and the Church
- III. HOLY: Spirituality of the Inner Life
- IV. APOSTOLIC: Ministry and Participative Leadership and Liberation Theology
- V. CATHOLIC: Church as Community, Globalization - Particularity & Pluralism

Calendar and Reading Assignments:

Week:

1) 8/29 Introduction

Readings:

- Introductions from the required texts
 - i. Kung pp xvii-xxv & "About the Author" at the end of the book;
 - ii. Gaillardetz xi-xxi;
 - iii. Wessels, preface –pp.11;
 - iv. Veli-Matti Karkkainen pp 7-14 –
- syllabus, organization & your experience of Church paper:
- John Allen articles, available at: <http://ncronline.org/node/4782> and <http://ncronline.org/node/4787>

2) 9/5 Concept of Church in Scripture and History: Hebrew background to Augustine - 450 c.e.

Readings:

- Küng pp. 1-53
- Gaillardetz, Ch. 1
- McBrien Interview¹:

3) 9/12 Christendom 450-1500

Readings:

- Küng pp. 55-108

4) 9/19 Reform/Denominational Concepts of Church 1500-1650

Readings:

- Küng pp. 109-138
- Kärkkäinen. pp. 17-91

5. 9/26 Modernity and Isolation 1650-1900

Readings:

- Küng pp. 139-168

6. 10/3 Vatican II 1960

Readings:

- Küng pp. 169-201

Comment [RTOG1]: a description of what ministry you will be doing 5 years from now and how it will be connected to "Church" and what concrete experiences of church you will ground your reflections in.
To

- *Lumen Gentium* available at:
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

7. **10/10** Vatican II 1960- cont. (Fall Break Mon. & Tues.) Half unit Wednesday to Saturday

Readings:

- *Gaudium et Spes* available at:
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

8. **10/17** The New Story

Readings:

- Wessels, pp. 13-46
- Küng pp. 203-213

9. **10/24 One** Feminization

Readings:

Gaillardetz, Ch. 3

Wessels, Ch. 3

Kärkkäinen, pp. 184-193

“Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on Some Aspects of the Church Understood as Communion,” CDF, available at:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_28051992_communionis-notio_en.html

10. **10/31 Holy** Spiritualization

Readings:

Gaillardetz, Ch. 5

Wessels, Ch. 4

Kärkkäinen, pp. 202-210

11. **11/7 Apostolic** Partnership

Readings:

Wessels, Ch 5

Gaillardetz, Chs. 6 & 7

Kärkkäinen, pp. 175-183

“Instruction on Certain Elements of the ‘Theology of Liberation’,” CDF, available at:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19840806_theology-liberation_en.html

12. **11/14 Catholic** Globalization

Readings:

Gaillardetz, Ch. 2

Wessels, Ch. 6

Kärkkäinen, pp. 167-174; 194-201.

11/21 - no class: Thanksgiving week

13. **11/28 Ministry in the Church**

Readings:

Gaillardetz, Ch. 5

Kärkkäinen, pp. 211-233

14. **12/5** Summary, Conclusions, Catch-up

Course’s Objectives:

1. A first objective of the course will be to **clarify** the present status of your identification of Church. This will involve identifying and articulating your experience of the church and its relationship to your ministry **vocation**.

Comment [RTOG2]: In a page to a page and a half, describe your experience of church. Base this on the church you grew up in, the church you currently belong to, or even a church that you occasionally attend. Then, surface issues that you have about your experience of church. Choose this church carefully, as it is to be the experience of church you will be asked to ground your readings and the information we uncover in this course

We will do this by exercises and discussions which probe the experiences you have had with church and the images and concepts that represent church for you today, as represented by your focus on what for you were key issues today.

Building on your product from this opening objective we will go on to several other key objectives:

2. Achieving basic “time-line” **knowledge** to identify key developments in the self-understanding of Church in terms of its *creed* (belief), *cult* (worship), & *code* (rules for behavior – social and personal). Heck
 - a. Identifying key developments in the identity of the Church
 - b. When they happen and the important events of world history to which these are related.
3. **Relating** these developments to the classic framework of the Church’s identity i.e., *One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic*, as manifest in a present-day experience/crisis of the church (that is, relating keys issues in Church’s identity to what Church is today and where it is going – what One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic look like a *New Ecclesia*).
4. **Construction** of vision and specific strategy of church engaging a paradigm based on the new universe story.
5. Finally, an **assessment** of the relation of Church to *religion* and *spirituality* in light of a “post-modern” or “quantum” view of reality.

These five cognitive objectives (clarification, knowledge, application, synthesis and evaluation) provide a frame for your assignments and assessment

Course Assignments:

1. **Clarification** - and opening paper due after the first week of class on the status of your identification of church 10%
2. **Knowledge** - and exam at midterm identifying key historical developments of the church's creed code and cult and their relationship to major historical world events 20%
3. **Application** - discussion questions throughout the course connecting historical and contemporary ecclesial issues 10%
4. **Synthesis** - major paper 50%

Choose a particular challenge to the marks of the church as it enters the third millennium (e.g., women, globalization, spirituality, authority, enculturation, etc.):

- 2) Lay out the dimensions (theoretical, social, practical and personal [that is, how it relates to you]) of that challenge and
 - 3) Propose a response to this challenge in terms of a viable ministry of Church based in the historical resources in the church’s self identity and the theoretical paradigm of the *New Story*.
5. **Assessment** - discussion board interaction in the second half of the course dealing with a reassessment of the relation of *Church* to *religion* and *spirituality* in light of a “post-modern” or “quantum” view of reality. 10%

Rubrics of Assessment:

| Grade | A | B | C | Unacceptable |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| | Meets required criteria in a highly proficient level | Meets all the requirements of the proficient level | Meets some of the requirements | Fails to meet the project criteria |
| 1. Clarification Clarify The present status of your identification of Church. | Writes a comprehensive and in-depth re-presentation of one's personal experience of church -- thematizing critical issues | Writes a re-presentation of one's personal experience of church -- surfacing issues | Writes a partial re-presentation of one's personal experience of church -- surfacing some issues | Writes a partial re-presentation of of one's personal experience of church -- but fails to surface significant issues |
| 2. Knowledge Identify key | Authentically engages the | Makes an acceptable use | Use of history indicates some | Use of history does not |

Comment [RTOG3]: (Here I would like to work up a bit of an essay focusing on concerns I have had this past spring and summer).

Comment [RTOG4]: “Church is the name one gives to the social reality that is coming into being where the gospel is healing human meaning. ... the gospel transforms human reality through the very processes of human communication. ... by direct proclamation (creed), by prayerful celebration (cult), and by service to human needs (code).”^[1] The three categories of *word* (creed), *celebration* (cult), and *care* (code) serve to structure both our historical survey of Church and the analysis of present ministries of Church as such.

Comment [RTOG5]: 1.A reassessment of the relation of *Church* to *religion* and *spirituality* in light of a “post-modern” or “quantum” view of reality.

Comment [RTOG6]: An ability to articulate a personal vision of Church and mission that addresses the contemporary challenges and pastoral concerns facing the global Christian mission today in a way that fosters greater self, world, and tradition awareness

Comment [RTOG7]: •Comprehension of different models of ecclesiology
•An understanding of the historical development of the Church from Biblical times through Vatican II to contemporary times
An understanding of the organizational structures of the Church, including issues of authority and the relationship between the local churches and the universal church

Comment [RTOG8]: An ability to connect aspects of the tradition, such as the four marks of the Church, to the contemporary context reinterpreting the tradition in light of the dialogue between the gospel and the *signs of the times*.

Comment [RTOG9]: Developing an understanding of one’s ministry within the context of the Christian mission and the Church

Comment [RTOG10]: •An ability to evaluate and critique different ecclesiologies based on their adequacy in dealing with contemporary challenges to the Christian mission

Comment [RTOG11]: a.What are the key developments in the identity of the Catholic Church?
b.When did they happen?
c.The important events of world history to which these are related.
d.How they are manifest in a present-day experience of the church.

Comment [RTOG12]: 1. Due by 8 am Monday morning – posted on blackboard One page (maximum length) a) a selection of 2-3 key points from the readings and b) a grounding of these points in a contemporary experience of church. 2. One paper
Choose a particular challenge to the marks of the church as it enters the third millennium (e.g., women, globalization, spirituality, authority, enculturation, etc.):

...

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| developments in the self-understanding of Church in terms of its <i>creed</i> (belief), <i>cult</i> (worship), & <i>code</i> (rules for behavior – social and personal). | church's history; demonstrating an informed use of historical method. Demonstrates a broad and in-depth knowledge of textual resources. | of the church's history with some evidence of adequate historical methodology. Shows evidence of textual resources. | adeptness with historical methodology. Show some evidence of textual resources. | evidence historical methodological competence. Little or no evidence of textual resources. |
| 3. Application Relating key historical developments to the classic framework of the Church's identity i.e., <i>One, Holy, Catholic,</i> and <i>Apostolic</i> , as manifest in a present-day experience/crisis of the church . | Illustrates new ways ecclesial issues from the course appear through the resources consulted. Points out elements of ambiguity in the resources themselves and in their correlation and goes on to suggest possible resolution of these conflicts. | Demonstrates an effort at correlation among the ambiguities within and from the various resources. | Demonstrates a limited ability to correlate the ambiguities in the resources. | Fails to show evidence of the ambiguities in the resources. |
| 4. Synthesis constructs major paper: Choose a particular challenge to the marks of the church as it enters the third millennium (e.g., women, globalization, spirituality, authority, enculturation, etc.): Lay out the dimensions (theoretical, social, practical and personal [that is, how it relates to you]) of that challenge and Propose a response to this challenge in terms of a viable ministry of Church based in the historical resources in the church's self identity and the theoretical paradigm of the <i>New Story</i> . | Refashions a critical vision of church shaped by the resources studied and grounded in the issues of today's pastoral context. Elaborates highly effective strategies of ministry in line with the vision of ministry showing critical influence from the research on the themes. | The ecclesial vision demonstrated benefits from the resources studied. Elaborates adequate strategies of ecclesial ministry connected to a vision of ministry informed by the research of this project. | The vision and strategies of church show some evidence of influence by the research of this project. | The vision and strategies of church show little evidence of influence by the research of this project. |
| 5. Assessment - a reassessment of the relation of <i>Church to religion</i> and <i>spirituality</i> in light of | Demonstrates an in-depth familiarity with religion and spirituality | Shows familiarity with religion and spirituality related to the | Exhibits some limited use of quantum science. | Little connection between quantum sciences and the |

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|---|---|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| a "post-modern" or "quantum" view of reality. | related to the themes of the course. Shows a critical appreciation for quantum methodology. | themes of the project. | | themes of the course. |
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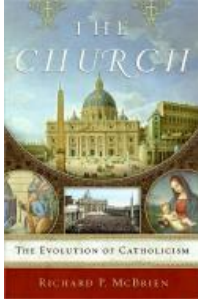
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|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Grading Grid: | | | | |
| 94-100 = A | 90-93 = A- | 87-89 = B+ | 84-86 = B | 80-83 = B- |
| 77-79 = C+ | 74-76 = C | 70-73 = C- | Below 70 = F | |

Instructor's Expectations/Course Requirements/Grading Standards:

- REGULAR ONLINE PARTICIPATION:** It is very important that students connect with the course on a regular basis by spending several hours online, accessing material, posting written assignments, responding to others' postings, and participating in our online discussions. Nine hours is the norm for a three-hour course such as this. Each week students will be engaged in online discussion boards: posting written assignments and responding to others' postings. **Assignments/initial postings will always be due on Wednesdays and your responses to others' assignments or postings will be due on Fridays.** Every assignment will include your responses to the other students' work, so you will submit assignments directly to the professor and post them on the discussion boards. Learning happens through the exchange of ideas. These requirements are meant to foster that exchange, so feel free to continue the conversation beyond the minimum required entries! Not participating in the course on a regular basis will create serious problems for students wanting to complete the course successfully. If you need to absent yourself due serious illness or other very important reasons, you need to send the instructor an e-mail (rogorma@luc.edu) to explain your situation.
- CLASS PARTICIPATION:** The online discussions presume that students have done the readings for that week. Doing the assigned readings is preparation for the significant online work, including viewing the instructor's online postings, the online discussions, etc. There will be weekly postings relative to the readings. There will be two required aspects to this participation:

 1. Discussion Threads: For each question posted, students are to post an answer and at least two responses to other students' answers.
 2. Online Chats will be scheduled on Tuesday evenings at 7:00p.m. Chicago time as an opportunity to ask questions and enter into an actual "real time" discussion. Participation is a demonstration of your preparation and engagement of the assigned material. Speakers and microphone will be required for participation (your computer may have these built in or you can use a headset w/microphone).
- Plagiarism, Cheating, Academic Dishonesty:** For the IPS policy on these issues, see: http://www.luc.edu/ips/Academics_Standards.shtml#academic_integrity. **If you have any questions about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials, you should consult the instructor or view the guidelines available at: <http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html>.** Proper citation procedures are provided in all standard writing manuals. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see the instructor.
- Students Needing Accommodations for Disabilities:** For Loyola policy, see: <http://www.luc.edu/sswd/>
- IPS Standards and Procedures:** http://www.luc.edu/ips/Academics_Standards.shtml
- Syllabus** is subject to change as the course develops.

i Author interview: Fr. Richard McBrien



By THOMAS C. FOX
October 9, 2008

David Gentry-Akin, associate professor of theology at St. Mary's College of California, writing in the Oct. 3 issue of *NCR*, called Fr. Richard McBrien's new book, *The Church: The Evolution of Catholicism*, "breathtaking in its scope and yet manageable in its presentation."

"The book," published by HarperOne, the religious books division of HarperCollins, he said, "is not strictly a history of the church, though of course a great deal of history is to be found between its covers. Rather, it's a focused study of ecclesiology, literally, the study of the church."

McBrien is a priest of the archdiocese of Hartford, Conn. He is the author of a number of other books, including his best-selling *Catholicism*, *Lives of the Popes*, and *Lives of the Saints*. He is general editor of the one-volume HarperCollins Encyclopedia of Catholicism.

McBrien is past president of the Catholic Theological Society of America and winner of its annual John Courtney Murray Award for "distinguished achievement in Theology."

I spoke with him recently about his book. The interview is divided into four parts.

Episode One <http://ncrnews.org/ncrpodcasts/McBrien.One.edit.mp3>

The first part deals with his reasons for writing the book and what he hopes the book will accomplish. He explains why he dedicated the book to the late Cardinal Yves Congar, a French Dominican theologian. He speaks about "the watershed" pontificate of Gregory VII at the beginning of the Second Christian millennium and how the Catholic church became a "more papal" church during that pontificate.

Episode Two [McBrien.Two.edit.mp3](#)

The second part deals with another watershed moment in church history, the Second Vatican Council. McBrien explains why the council plays a key role in his book. He talks about those trying to downgrade the council's significance and the pastoral challenges being presented to the church today.

Episode Three [McBrien.Three.edit.mp3](#)

The third part deals with women doing theology in the church today. He calls this “the most significant development in Catholicism” in the past three decades. He talks about the development of Latino and Latina theologies and the emergence of lay groups, left and right, in the life of the modern church.

Episode Four [McBrien.Four.edit.mp3](#)

The fourth part deals with the current pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI and McBrien's assessment of the current pontificate. He also talks about where he finds hope in the church today.

(Tom Fox is NCR editor.)