

Liturgy and Christian Sacraments – IPS 541-001
Loyola University Chicago – Institute of Pastoral Studies
Thursdays, September 1, 2010 – December 1, 2010
4:15 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

“The purpose of the Sacraments is to make people holy, to build up the Body of Christ, and, finally, to give worship to God; but being signs they also have a teaching function. They not only presuppose faith, but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen, and express it; that is why they are called ‘sacraments of faith.’ They do indeed impart grace, but, in addition, the very act of celebrating them disposes the faithful most effectively to receive this grace in a fruitful manner, to worship God rightly, and to practice charity.

It is therefore of the highest importance that the faithful should readily understand the sacramental signs and should with great eagerness frequent those sacraments that were instituted to nourish the Christian life.” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, # 59)

This course will examine the seven Catholic Sacraments as specific encounters with the great mystery that is God, whose saving presence and action break into our lives through our experiences of the Paschal Mystery of Christ, in the Holy Spirit. As liturgical celebrations of Christ’s Body, the Church, the Sacraments not only express our faith in God’s love and presence (what we refer to as “grace”), but also, by their very celebration, bring us into an encounter with God’s grace and work to form and shape us more and more into the image of his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, an image first bestowed upon us in baptism.

An exploration of the liturgical rites, sacramental signs and symbols, and the language of ritual action, movement and gesture will be key to this study.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Rooted in our Tradition’s sense of sacramentality, our approach will be threefold:

- to examine the historical development of the sacraments;
- to appropriate the norms governing their liturgical celebration in the Church;
- to identify and explore the pastoral implications of various issues and challenges encountered in the celebration of the sacraments today;

From this we will better understand and appreciate the sacramental life to which every Christian is called; a life in which the spiritual is encountered in the physical, and through the celebration of liturgical rites, all of creation is understood as the locus for experiencing the divine, saving presence and action of God. In the end participants will have a deepened understanding of the sacraments and their celebration, and an increased comfort in and ability to speak about, teach and counsel on the sacraments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- full, conscious and active participation in class;
- assigned readings of the required texts;
- a Reflection Paper, based on the course material in Part I: A Theology of Sacrament – a reflection on the Church’s sense of sacramentality and the role of Liturgy in the worship life of the Church.
- A Final Paper: A Case Study of one of the Church’s Sacraments: to observe, analyze, raise issues and make recommendations regarding the preparation for, the celebration of and then living out of, the respective sacrament. Each student will present his / her Case Study in the final classes.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Rites, Volume I, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, 1990.

Martos, Joseph. *Doors to the Sacred: A Historical Introduction to the Sacraments of the Catholic Church*, revised and updated version, Liguori / Triumph, 2001.

Smolarski, S.J., Dennis. *Sacred Mysteries*, New York / Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press. 1995

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, Libreria Editrice Vaticano. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press. 1994

United States Catechism for Adults, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Washington, DC: USCCB. 2006

SYLLABUS

PART I: LITURGY AND THE CATHOLIC SACRAMENTAL SENSE

January 21: Introduction

Martos: Chapter I, Sacraments in All Religions, pp. 3-18

Chapter II, The Beginnings of the Christian Sacraments, pp. 19-46

CCC#1066-1209 USCCA# Chapter 14, pp.165-179

September 1:

Smolarski: Chapter 1, Liturgia Semper Reformanda & Chapter 2, From Principles to Practice, pp. 7 – 16

Martos: Chapter III, The Development of the Catholic Sacraments, pp. 47 – 76

September 8:

Smolarski: Chapter 3, The foundational Mysteries in the Church’s Worship, pp. 17 – 32

Martos: Chapter V, The Sacraments Today pp. 102-127

The Rites, Preface, vii - xviii

PART II: THE SACRAMENTS

September 15: Sacrament of Baptism

Smolarski: Chapter 4, The Great Mystery of Baptism, pp. 33 - 51

Martos: Chapter VI, Baptism, pp. 147 – 183

The Rites, I, pp. 3 - 117

CCC#1210-1284 USCCA# Chapters 15-16, pp.182-199

September 22: Sacrament of Confirmation

Smolarski: Chapter 5, The Great Mystery of Confirmation, pp. 52 - 63

Martos: Chapter VII, Confirmation, pp. 184 - 208

The Rites, I, pp. 285 - 334

CCC#1285-1321 USCCA# Chapters 15, pp.201-211

September 29 & October 13: Sacrament of Eucharist

Smolarski, Chapter 6: The Great Mystery of the Eucharist, pp. 64 – 84

Martos: Chapter VIII, Eucharist, pp. 209-274

CCC#1322-1419 USCCA# Chapter 17, pp.213 –232

October 6: No Class

October 20: Sacrament of Penance

Smolarski, Chapter 7: The Great Mystery of Penance, pp. 85 – 95

Martos: Chapter IX, Reconciliation, pp.275-324

The Rites, II, pp. 335 - 445

CCC#1420-1498 USCCA# Chapter 18, pp.233-247

October 27: Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Smolarski, Chapter 8: The Great Mystery of Anointing, pp. 96 – 104

Martos: Chapter X, Anointing, pp. 325-350

The Rites, VI, pp. 571 - 642

CCC#1499-1532 USCCA# Chapter 19, pp.249-259

November 3: Sacrament of Marriage

Smolarski, Chapter 9: The Great Mystery of Marriage, pp. 105 – 125

Martos: Chapter XI, Marriage, pp.351-399

The Rites, V, pp. 529 - 570

CCC#1601-1666 USCCA# Chapter 21, pp.227-292

November 10: Sacrament of Orders

Smolarski, Chapter 10: The Great Mystery of Order, pp. 126 – 137

Martos: Chapter XII, Ordination, pp.400-465

CCC#1536-1600 USCCA# Chapter 20, pp. 2261-275

November 17: Case Study Presentations

November 24: No Class (Thanksgiving)

December 1: Case Study Presentations / Conclusion