

INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY
(IPS 570-001)
Water Tower Campus, Class # 2692

Instructor: Matthew Schwartz

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Dates and Times: 6 weeks, Tuesday and Thursday nights, 6:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. June 16- July 23, 2009

Required Texts:

Joye Gros, O.P., D. Min., *Theological Reflection: Connecting Faith and Life* (Loyola Press 2001) ISBN-10: 0829417249 , ISBN-13: 978-0829417241

Patricia O'Connell Killen, John de Beer, *The Art of Theological Reflection* (The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1994) ISBN-10: 0824514017 ISBN-13: 978-0824514013

Aidan Nichols, *The Shape of Catholic Theology: An Introduction to Its Sources, Principles, and History,* (Liturgical Press, 1991) ISBN-10: 0814619096, ISBN-13: 978-0814619094

Robert J. Wicks (Editor) *Handbook of Spirituality for Ministers, Volume 2: Perspectives for the 21st Century* Publisher: Paulist Press (November 2000)
ISBN-10: 0809139715 , ISBN-13: 978-0809139712

Suggested Reading:

National Directory for Catechesis

Gaudium et Spes

Dei Verbum

Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord

Course Description: An introduction for ministry students, this course sets the tone for the interplay between tradition and ministry, theology and practice. Students focus on method and skills, learning to think critically about the tradition and relate it effectively to ministry contexts today. The course has three parts: 1) What is theology? 2) Exploring theological method, including the Art of Theological Reflection, and 3) Theology of ministry. Students reflect on the importance of critical theory for theology and examine various theological methods, each emphasizing the interplay between experience and tradition. The major theological shifts introduced by the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) lead into the course focus on ministry. How do we understand the task of ministry today? Connecting our own charisms with the needs of the faith community in service to the reign of God, ministry is both universal (a mandate given in baptism to all the baptized) and skilled profession. The course concludes with a section on theological reflection and practical theology-how do we think on our feet as pastoral theologians and ministry professionals, relating the tradition to our own experience and to our ministry contexts?

Course Objectives: The fact that human experience is indispensable to our connection with God means that theology cannot be understood without reference to human experience. Accordingly, one of the objectives of this course is to reflect upon how human experience and expression, both personal and communal, are central to theology. Theological reflection begins with the lived experience of those doing the reflection; it correlates this experience with the sources of Christian tradition; and it draws out practical implications for Christian living.

Inspired Scripture has a special role to play in recording the original experiences of the God's revelation to mankind and it enables later generations to re-enact those experiences. Therefore, any adequate discussion on ministry and theology must bring into focus revelation, faith, tradition and inspiration.

Plagiarism, Cheating, Academic Dishonesty: Students are hereby advised of the strong sanctions against plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" in the course and possible expulsion from IPS. *If you have any questions about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials, you should consult the instructor.* Proper citation procedures are provided in all standard writing manuals. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact the instructor:

Class attendance and participation: As a professional school, IPS holds our students to an expectation of professional behavior. Attendance at all classes is expected. If you need to absent yourself due serious illness or other very important reasons, you need to call the instructor's voice-mail (815) 399-4300 x 393 or email mschwartz@rockforddiocese.org prior to the class you miss and provide him with an explanation. Because so much of the course is the exchange that occurs in the classroom, three or more excused absences will result in an automatic failure of the course. Tardiness will result in a lowered class participation grade. Significant tardiness will equal ½ of an absence. Lack of participation in class discussions can seriously affect your final grade. Each week students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings in depth, bringing notes and questions for their own use in the class discussions.

WEEKLY WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Weekly Reading Summary: Each Thursday (except for 6/18), students will prepare a one -page summary of selected reading assignments. The student will identify the author's purpose, thesis and argument. Worth 5 points.

Descriptions of Relevant Experience: Beginning July 2, students will also prepare a one-page description of a ministerial experience that relates to content already presented and/or discussed. Worth 5 points

Theological Challenge: Beginning July 9, students will also write a one-page dialogue between their experience and text. The experience will be used to critically illuminate and challenge the text and the text will be used to illuminate and challenge the experience. Worth 5 points

The rubrics for the weekly writing assignments will be made available.

FINAL PAPER/PRESENTATION: At the end of the course, each student will present a paper addressing a theological issue in such a way that it would be appropriately shared in a ministerial context. The paper will present the theology and methodology in such a way that the intended audience could understand it and could use it for the intended outcome. Lengths will vary but must not be less than 5 pages (10 minutes) nor longer than 10 pages (20 minutes). The skills of summarizing theology, describing experiences, and placing the two in dialogue that have been gained throughout this course must be applied in the papers/presentations. The presentation of papers will take place July 21 and 23.

Calendar and Reading Assignments

T June 16

Topic: Experience and Revelation

Th June 18

Reading: Killen and De Beer, chapter 2-3, Reading: Gros, chapters 1-3

Topic: Models and methods of theological reflection. How to do theological reflection.

Writing: Summary of 1 text AND an essay: My theological context and human experience in ministry.

T June 23

Reading: Killen and De Beer, chapter 4-5, Gros, chapter 5, skim through Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord <http://www.usccb.org/laity/laymin/co-workers.pdf>

Topic: The role of the faith formation facilitator

Th June 25

Reading: Wicks, chapters 36, 37, 39, 40, 41 and Bob Ludwig article (provided by Instructor)

Topic: Ideas and themes in lay ecclesial ministry

Writing: Summary of 3 texts

T June 30

Reading: Nichols, chapters 1-2

Topic: The habit and task of Theology and conversion

Th July 2

Reading: Nichols, chapters 1-2

Topic: The habit and task of Theology

Writing: Summary of 1 text, relevant experience

T July 7

Reading: Nichols, chapters 8-12

Topic: Scripture as a source of Theology

Th July 9

Reading: Nichols, chapters 8-12

Topic: Scripture as a source of Theology

Writing: Summary of 1 text, relevant experience, theological challenge

T July 14

Reading: Nichols, chapters 13-16

Topic: Tradition as a source of Theology

Th July 16

Reading: Nichols, chapters 13-16

Topic: Tradition as a source of Theology and Vatican II

Writing: Summary of 1 text, relevant experience, theological challenge

T July 21

Student Presentations

Th July 23

Student Presentations