

Syllabus for Ecclesiology Module

Module Outline

Date	Topic	Presentation I	Presentation II
Sept 27, 2017	The Church is Holy	Introduction to the Module	Holiness
Oct 4, 2017	The Church is Catholic	Universal mission	Outside the Church
Oct 18, 2017	The Church is One	Communion of Churches	Ecclesial Communities
Oct 25, 2017	The Church is Apostolic	Apostolicity of faith	Apostolicity of ministry

Books

- Required: [bring to class!]
 - New American Bible
 - Morris Pelzel, *Ecclesiology – The Church as Communion and Mission*
- Recommended:
 - Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*
 - Francis A. Sullivan SJ, *The Church We Believe In*
 - Walter Cardinal Kasper, *The Catholic Church*
 - Raymond Brown, *The Churches The Apostles Left Behind*

Module Description

The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*) from Vatican II says that “the Church, in Christ, is in the nature of sacrament – a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and of unity among all men ...” (#1). Among many biblical images, *Lumen Gentium* pays attention to the Church as the Body of Christ (St Paul in 1 Corinthians, Romans, Colossians and Ephesians) and also to the Church as the Bride of Christ (esp. Ephesians 5.25-28). These two powerful images highlight the nature of the Church as a work of God and a mystery of faith. Further *Lumen Gentium* says “This Church, constituted and organized as a society in the present world subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him” (#8). This ILM module will address the question: What is the Church that we believe in?

Learning Objectives

- Understand how the Church is holy
- Understand how the Church is catholic
- Understand how the Church is one
- Understand how the Church is apostolic

Class 1: Introduction and The Church is Holy

Reading

- **Biblical Texts:**
 - Please read and pray about these Biblical texts before class
 - John 14-17 (esp. 16.4-15) – Jesus at the Last Supper
 - Acts 1-2 (esp. 2.1-4) – Pentecost
 - Exodus 3 – call of Moses
 - Isaiah 6 – call of Isaiah
 - 1 Peter 1-2 (esp. 2.9) – Peter’s view of Church
 - 1 Corinthians 1 – Paul’s view of Church
 - Matthew 13.24-30 – Christ’s view of Church
- **Pelzel:**
 - You may read these chapters profitably before or after class
 - Chapter 1: “A Vision of Church – Communion and Mission” (11 pages)
 - Chapter 7: “The Church – One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic” (16 pages)

Questions for Reading and Reflection

- What is the role of the Holy Spirit according to Jesus and as you see the Holy Spirit operating in the Church?
- Recite the Creed (Nicene or Apostles) to yourself. Pay attention to the part of Jesus: “I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.” Do you believe this? What does it mean to your life?
- How do you reconcile a “holy Church” with a sinful one?

Outline of Topics Presented in Class

- **Introduction to the module**
 - **Creed:** I believe
 - **Holy Spirit:** Promise of God
 - **Church:** communion and mission
 - **Communion:** “union with”
- **The Church is Holy**
 - **Genuine Holiness:** God and us
 - **Indefectibly Holy:** Church
- **Our Lady**

Class 2: The Church is Catholic

Reading

- **Biblical Texts:**
 - Please read and pray about these Biblical texts before class
 - Matthew 28 – Jesus after the resurrection
 - Mark 1 – Jesus at beginning of his ministry
- **Pelzel:**
 - You may read these chapters profitably before or after class
 - Chapter 5: “The Mission of the Church – Evangelizing Cultures” (16 pages)
 - Chapter 6: “The Mission of the Church – Transforming the World” (15 pages)

Questions for Reading and Reflection

- Is the Church catholic if it does not include everyone?
- What does evangelization mean?
- Can Jews, Moslems, Heretics (Protestant), atheists be saved?

Outline of Topics Presented in Class

- **Universal Mission** – in word
 - **Evangelization:** good news
- **Universal Mission** – in deed
 - **Catholic Social Teaching:** evangelization in action
- **Outside the Church**
 - **Salvation:** who can be saved

Class 3: The Church is One

Reading

- **Biblical Texts:**
 - Please read and pray about these Biblical texts before class
 - John 1 – the beginning
 - Matthew 26 – last supper
 - John 6 – discourse on the Bread of Life
 - Matthew 16 – Who do you say that I am?
- **Pelzel:**
 - You may read these chapters profitably before or after class
 - Chapter 4: “The Church – Formed Through Word and Sacrament” (19 pages)

Questions for Reading and Reflection

- How are Orthodox Christians different from Catholic Christians?
- Why was the 16th century Reformation more about authority than about reform?
- How do you feel about the divisions among Christians?

Outline of Topics Presented in Class

- **Communion of Churches**
 - **Schism:** Split between East and West (Orthodox and Catholic)
- **Ecclesial Communities**
 - **Heresy:** Split within the West
- **Ecumenism**
 - **Role of Peter:** unity

Class 4: The Church is Apostolic

Reading

- **Biblical Texts:**
 - Please read and pray about these Biblical texts before class
 - Matthew 10 – mission of disciples
 - John 16-17 – role of the Holy Spirit
- **Pelzel:**
 - You may read these chapters profitably before or after class
 - Chapter 3: “Charisms, Ministries, and States of Life in the Church” (12 pages)

Questions for Reading and Reflection

- What is the guarantee that the revelation of Christ has been handed down authentically?
- What is the difference between Scripture (Sacred) and Tradition?
- Was the Sacrament of Holy Orders instituted by Christ exactly as it stands today?

Outline of Topics Presented in Class

- **Apostolicity of faith**
 - **Unity and Authenticity**
- **Apostolicity of ministry**
 - **Big Church chart**

Final Assignment

Topic:

Choose one of the following topics for your paper. All the facts you need are in the Pelzel book or presented in the lectures; do not do any research. Your task in your paper is to do a pastoral reflection on the Church.

- I. The institutional structure of the Church (papacy, curia, hierarchy, etc.) can seem to impede Christ's mission. Prepare a talk to show how the visible Church actually serves communion, which is the mission of Christ.
- II. Many Protestant Christians believe that the Bible alone is the only true authority in the Church. Prepare a talk that shows how the Catholic position on the Sacred Scriptures comes from an understanding of both authority and communion.
- III. In the popular religious song *City of God* we sing "Let us build the City of God." God is building the City of God, not us. Prepare a talk that discusses how building the city of this world is our task and a part of our mission from Christ to announce the Kingdom of God.

Paper requirements

This is a 3-page paper (no more), typed and double-spaced. Use one-inch margins, add page numbers, and write in complete sentences (no lists, outlines, or subtitles). It is best to put the paper in MS Word format, if you want me to make comments in your paper. Your references to gospel passages can take this simple form in parentheses at the end of a phrase or sentence (Matt 5.32-35). On the first page only, in the top right corner, please type the following identifying information:

Your name
Your email address
ILM Ecclesiology Module, FI17

You will submit your paper electronically by email to ilmstudents@dsj.org. The ILM staff will give your papers back electronically, with my comments, by mid-June.

Due date: Wednesday, November 1, 2017