TMST 8021 Priesthood: Theology & Praxis

N.B. This is the Syllabus as of July 18, 2014

Boston College School of Theology & Ministry TM 677-01

James T. Bretzke, S.J., S.T.D

Fall Semester 2014 Class: Wednesdays 4:00—6:20 PM in Room 110 @ 9 Lake St.

Office Hours Procedures: Wednesdays 1:30—3:30 PM: contact the Service Center at 617-552-6501 to sign up for a slot on these days; OR e-mail the professor at Bretzke@bc.edu for other times outside of the Wednesday slots. Please do not contact the professor for a Wednesday appointment, as the Service Center keeps this schedule and this will only delay getting an appointment

Office Phone: 617-552-6514

Fr. Bretzke’s Moral Theology Web-page: https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/BretzkeWebIndex.pdf All electronic links verified as of June 10, 2014; if you encounter a broken link please e-mail the professor

Course Description

N.B. This course will use the BC LMS Canvas for all ordinary course activities and communication, so it is essential that all students consult the Canvas course web-page regularly and have their BC and personal e-mail set up to forward from the Canvas site.

This Level Two course focuses on ordained ministry of the Roman Catholic priesthood in terms of its biblical and theological foundations, historical development, and contemporary issues and practice, especially as treated in the pertinent documents of Vatican II and postconciliar ecclesial texts. Special emphasis will be given to various forms of priestly spirituality and dimensions of pastoral practice, as well as attention to cooperation between laity and clergy in an understanding of the role of lay ecclesial ministry in the Church. Celibacy and priestly life and ministry in the context of consecrated life will also be considered. Consideration of some of the tensions and critiques arising out of the Church’s understanding of the priesthood as being reserved to males, mandatory celibacy, and the distinction between ordained and lay aspects of ministry will also be treated. The course is open to all students, lay, religious, and/or seminarians. Ecclesiology is a pre-requisite for those wishing to count this course for the Ecclesial Ministry requirement in the M.Div. curriculum.

Learning Outcomes

• To articulate an understanding of the historical development of the sacrament of Holy Orders
• To articulate biblical foundations and contemporary understanding of the theology of the priesthood
• To foster an understanding of priestly spirituality, the role of the Divine Office, in light of the Spiritual Exercises, the Documents of GC 34, and/or other religious order charisms
• To development pastoral facility in a range of sacramental, moral, canonical, and pastoral cases that are likely to arise in the exercise of priestly ministry
• An ability to articulate the Church’s teaching on the reservation of Holy Orders to men as well as contemporary theological discussion around these disputed points

Readings

Key Church Documents, including Second Vatican Council, Christus Dominus, #4-7, 25-35, Lumen Gentium, #18 – 29, Gaudium et spes, Optatam totius; Presbyterorum Ordinis, CDF, Inter insigniores; Pope John Paul II, Ordinatio Sacerdotalis; Pastores Dabo Vobis, #11-33; Congregation for Clergy, et al., Ecclesiae de mysterio [on the Collaboration of the Lay Faithful in the ministry of Priests, 1997], Program for Priestly Formation, Directory for the Ministry and Life of Priests (2013, selections).

Various Theological Reflections on the Priesthood

Novel or movie choice, e.g. Bernanos’ Diary of a Country Priest, Graham Greene’s Power & Glory, Shusako Endo’s Silence, “Mission,” “Romero,” “Priest,” “Doubt,” “Mass Appeal,” “Nothing Sacred” [this is not an exhaustive list, but merely illustrative; please feel free to consult with the professors for additional suggestions—whether of your own or others].

Assignments

A total of 6 Bi-Weekly Journals on course readings, classroom discussion and personal reflections. On several occasions a topic will be suggested in the Syllabus, but the actual content and length will be at the student’s discretion, though ideally it would involve some engagement and reflection on the course readings, themes, and/or class discussion.

3 Case studies drawn from actual pastoral scenarios that include pastoral, sacramental, canonical and/or moral considerations. The cases will be chosen from a pool of at least three cases per assignment. The response should be about 4 pages in length and would begin by identifying very briefly what, if any, pastoral, canonical, sacramental, or moral issues are involved, and then outline in greater detail how you would handle this particular case as a priest.

Class Presentation on the Understandings of the Priesthood on Religious Charism of Religious Institutes represented in the class (e.g., Assumptionist, Capuchins, Edmundites, Jesuits, and Redemptorists). Each student is responsible for presenting, or co-presenting, the charism of his respective religious order in class.
Essay on the notion of priesthood developed in the novel or movie chosen from the above list of suggestions, or in consultation with the professors. This 4-5 page paper would give your reflections on the theme, plot, and character development as it relates to the presentation of the life of the priest involved. In other words, what are your own reflections on how Fr X (the priest-protagonist) handled himself in this movie, novel, etc.?

Final synthetic essay of c. 10 pages articulating the student’s own theology and spirituality of the priesthood due the last week of class. The 6 bi-weekly Journal Reflections may furnish some of the outline or content for this final essay.

Course Communication Protocol

As noted above: The normal method of communication for the course will be via the e-mail function in the Canvas course web-page. Therefore, it is very important that each student enable e-mail from their end, and to monitor either their individual BC e-mail account OR to have their BC e-mail set up to forward automatically all e-mail to their preferred e-mail account. Course announcements, addenda, corrections, will be posted to Canvas and not usually sent via e-mail, so students should also be checking the Canvas course web-page a few times a week for these possible announcements.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is expected at all classes; there is no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences, but only between “foreseen” and “unforeseen.” If an absence is foreseen please contact the professor before the class to be missed. If an absence is unforeseen (e.g., illness or emergency) please contact the professor as soon as possible after the missed class. Excessive absences will result in lowering of the final grade.

For Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Kathy Duggan (Kathleen.duggan@bc.edu) Associate Director, Academic Support Services, the Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities and ADHD) or Paulette Durrett (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for Students with Disabilities (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Plagiarism is the act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as one’s own. Penalties at Boston College range from a grade penalty to dismissal from the University. To avoid plagiarism, any use of another’s words or ideas must be fully cited. If in the original wording, quotation marks or blocked, indented quotations must be used. For more information regarding plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity, please consult the STM website at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/stm/acadprog/acadpol.html [link verified June 10, 2014]
Inclusive Language Policy:
All written work should reflect good academic English style. In accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style and generally accepted contemporary canons of scholarship the expectation is to use bias-free language in academic writing. The following adapted guideline is suggested: Gender-inclusive language should be used sensibly. Referring to all people living in society the word men should not be used alone. However, if gender-inclusive language leads to incorrect statements it should not be used. For example, in speaking of “monks” (who are men) do not refer to them as he or she. Similarly in referring to the American electorate in the 19th century the same principle would hold since women were not enfranchised at that time.

STM School-Wide Grading Policy (adopted by the Faculty in the Fall 2012): based on the Academic Policies of Boston College for Graduate Courses. All grading in this class is reflective of these descriptions.

A Work is exceptional in every respect. There is an active and sophisticated engagement with all aspect of the course, demonstrated through careful analysis or creative treatment of the ideas covered. Both class participation and written work indicate outstanding mastery of content, originality of thought clearly expressed, and clarity in connecting course concepts with ministerial and theological interests. All assignments turned in complete and on time.

A- Work is superior and above the average graduate level expectations. This involves mastery of the course content, recognition of the “big picture” within which course material is situated, and capacity to make cogent links with one’s ministerial and theological position. This level is reflected in the ability to express one’s thoughts effectively in writing and to contribute significantly to class conversation.

B+ Work is more than satisfactory at the graduate level. This involves mastery of the course content and the ability to draw connections across course topics and with appropriate theological and ministerial topics. Contribution to class conversation gives evidence of both active listening and thoughtful participation. Written work is clear, focused and well organized.

B Work is clearly satisfactory at the graduate level. There is consistent engagement with, and a basic mastery of, the course material with a good command of the various topics.

B- Work is barely acceptable at the graduate level. This reflects a basic command of the course material, an adequate articulation of the connections across content areas, and a basic recognition of the implications for pastoral work.

C Work is marginally acceptable at the graduate level. This is a basic mastery of most of the course materials but not all. It represents that you have slipped below an acceptable level of work in one or two areas.

F Work is unsatisfactory and fails to meet the requirements of the course.
P/F Pass/Fail option must be arranged with the professors by the end of the first week of the semester if this grade is desired in place of a standard Letter Grade.

**Required Book**


**RECOMMENDED Books**


Galot, Jean, S.J. *Theology of the Priesthood* [Italian original: *Teologia del sacerdozio*]. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1984 [apparently out of print, but copies in the BC libraries]


**Priesthood Course Readings**

*Readings from Scripture* [Selections]

Gospel of Matthew especially Mt 16:18; 20:25-29

Gospel of Mark especially Mk 10: 42-45

Gospel of Luke especially Lk 10:1; 22:19; 24-25
Gospel of John Chs. especially 14-17; 21:15-17


I Corinthians especially 1 Cor 11:24-25

Pastoral Epistles especially 1 Tim 3

Letter to the Hebrews (whole Letter)

**Readings from the Magisterium**

Vatican II (Selections) Available online at


**Core Readings**

Vatican II. *Presbyterorum ordinis* Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests


**RECOMMENDED READINGS**

**USCCB**


**Congregation for the Clergy:**

*Instruction: The Priest, Pastor and Leader of the Parish Community* (4 August 2002) available at
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cclergy/documents/rc_con_cclergy_do
c_19031999_pretres_en.html

Ancillary Readings from Documents of Vatican II

*Apostolicam actuositatem*, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity #2,3,10,
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-
ii_decree_19651118_apostolicam-actuositatem_en.html

*Christus Dominus*, Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops #4-7, 28-35,
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-
ii_decree_19651028_christus-dominus_en.html

*Gaudium et spes*, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World #16,
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-
ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

*Lumen Gentium*, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Ch. 3 #18 – 29, Ch. 5 #39-42
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-
ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

*Optatam totius* Decree on Priestly Training #16-18
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-
ii_decree_19651028_optatam-totius_en.html

*Sacrosanctum concilium* Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Ch. IV The Divine Office,
#83-101 http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-
ii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html

*Unitatis redintegratio* Decree on Ecumenism Ch. 2 The Practice of Ecumenism #5-12,
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-
ii_decree_19641121_unitatis-redintegratio_en.html

Special Questions and/or Issues Related to Priesthood

Baker, Msgr. Andrew R. “Ordination and Same Sex Attraction: The Best and Safest Course Is
Not to Admit Him to Holy Orders.” America (30 September 2002): 7-9. **AND** Bishop Thomas J.

Congregation for Catholic Education. “Instruction Concerning the Criteria for the Discernment
of Vocations with regard to Persons with Homosexual Tendencies in view of their Admission to
the Seminary and to Holy Orders.” 4 November 2005. Available online at
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_
20051104_istruzione_en.html

Congregation for the Clergy. Decree on Mass Stipends (1991)
http://www.ewtn.com/library/CURIA/CCLSTIPN.HTM

Congregation for Clergy, et al., Ecclesiae de mysterio Instruction on Certain Questions
Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of
Priests (1997),
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cclergy/documents/rc_con_interdic_doc_
c_15081997_en.html

O’Keefe, Martin D., S.J. “Praying the Liturgy of the Hours.” St. Louis: Institute of Jesuit
Sources, 2002. [Available on Canvas]

O’Malley, John, S.J. “Priesthood, Ministry and Religious Life: Some Historical and

Paul VI, Pope. Indulgentiarum doctrina Apostolic Constitution on the Revision of Indulgences
(1967) http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_constitutions/documents/hf_p-
vi_apc_19670101_indulgentiarum-doctrina_en.html

________. Firma in Traditione Apostolic Letter Concerning Mass Stipends (1974) [for a
complete English translation see Flannery The Documents of Vatican II, (New York:
available on Blackboard course web-page; online versions are available in Latin, Italian,
and Chinese: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/motu proprio/documents/hf_p-
vi_motu-proprio_19740613_firma-in-traditione_it.html

Shekleton, John. “Homosexuality & the Priesthood: Vocations off the straight and narrow.”

Lay Ministry and Ecclesial Movements

Christifideles Laici Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Vocation and Mission of the Lay
Faithful and in the World. (1988) Selections: Ch. 2]
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-
iu_exh_30121988_christifideles-laici_en.html

Doyle, Dennis. “Extraordinary Love in the Lives of Lay People” College Theology Society
Plenary Address, 31 May 2014 (available on Canvas)

USCCB Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord Available online at
**Women’s Ordination** (Sr. Margaret Guider, OSF Guest Lecturer [additional readings on Canvas that are suggested by Sr. Guider])

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Inter insigniores* Declaration on the Question of Admission of Women to the Ministerial Priesthood (1976)


**Recommended Reading**

John Paul II, Pope. *Ad tuendam fidel* Apostolic Letter *Motu proprio* by which certain norms are inserted into the Code of Canon Law and into the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches. Available at


Orsy, Ladislaus, SJ and Sullivan, Francis, SJ. Commentary on the CDF *Responsum ad dubium* on the doctrinal authority of *Ordinatio sacerdotalis*. America (9 December 1995): 4-6.


{The Galot chapter would give a good summary of the arguments against the possibility of the Catholic Church’s ordaining women. It was written before the publication of *Ordinatio sacerdotalis* and the ensuing *Responsum ad dubium* of the CDF, so would not include these documents in the discussion}

**Theological and/or Spiritual Writings**

Francis, Pope. 2014 Holy Thursday Chrism Mass Homily. Available on Canvas and at


Galot, Jean. Theology of the Priesthood. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1984. [Apparently out of print, though there are copies in the BC libraries and most chapters are on Canvas]

**Canonical Issues**

CIC §129, 265-293, 672, 678-683,1008-1009; 1024-1052 from the Code of Canon Law, [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM)

**Pastoral, Liturgical and/or Sacramental Issues**

Rite of Ordination to the Diaconate and Priesthood

**Issues Relating to Sexual Abuse and Clergy Misconduct**


**Writings of Pope Francis**


Incultration, Cross-Cultural Ministry, and Related Themes


WEEKLY THEMES, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Schedule of Class Meetings

Week 1 (September 3) Introduction and Course Syllabus Finalization

Read

Vatican II. *Presbyterorum ordinis* Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests

View *(before class* if possible) the Power Point Presentation "Images of the Priesthood" posted to *Canvas* and reflect on the various theologies, understandings, tensions, and conflicts that seem to be "captured" about the priesthood in this Presentation. The images come almost exclusively from a Google image search on "Priesthood" (though they have been loosely organized in thematic areas by Fr. Bretzke).

Week 2 (September 10) Priesthood of all Believers and Ministerial Priesthood

Read:

*Christifideles Laici* Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful and in the World. (1988) [Selections: Ch. 2]


Week 3 (September 17) Relationship of Lay and Ordained Ministry and New Ecclesial Movements *Guest Lecturers: Richard Lennan & Jackie Regan*

FIRST Journal Reflection Due by Class Time on your Individual Vocation Story and Relation to Priesthood

Read

Congregation for Clergy, et al., *Ecclesiae de mysterio* Instruction on Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priests (1997),
Dennis Doyle, “Extraordinary Love in the Lives of Lay People” College Theology Society Plenary Address, 31 May 2014 (available on Canvas)

**Recommended Reading**


**Week 4 (September 24) Priesthood of Jesus 1 Guest Lecturer: Nicholas King**

**Case 1 on Sacramental Conundra Due**

Read

Letter to the Hebrews (whole Letter)

O’Collins & Jones, *Jesus Our Priest*, chs. 1-6

**Week 5 (October 1) Priesthood of Jesus 2**

**2nd Journal Reflection Due by Class Time:** Suggested Theme: Reflections on the O’Collins/Jones book

Read

Gospel of Matthew especially Mt 16:18; 20:25-29

Gospel of Mark especially Mk 10: 42-45

Gospel of Luke especially Lk 10:1; 22:19; 24-25

O’Collins & Jones, *Jesus Our Priest*, chs 7-11

**Week 6 (October 8) Rite of Ordinations of Deacons and Priests Guest Lecturer: John Baldovin**

Read

Gospel of John Chs. especially 14-17; 21:15-17


I Corinthians especially 1 Cor 11:24-25

Pastoral Epistles especially 1 Tim 3

Roman Rite of Diaconal and Priestly Ordination & Supporting Documents from *Roman Pontifical* Available on Canvas


Week 7 (October 15) Sacrament of Orders, Priestly Celibacy, & Special Questions Related to the Priesthood (Confessions, Stipends & Mass Intentions, Indulgences, etc.)

3rd Journal Reflection Due by Class Time (Suggested theme: your own spirituality as it relates to your understanding of the priesthood and priestly identity)

Case 2 Due

Read


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**Recommended Reading:**


**Week 8 (October 22) Priestly Identity & Spirituality Guest Lecturer: Jim Conn**

**Read**


*Selections* Part 1: The Identity of the Priest #1-44. Available at  

**Week 9 (October 29) Priestly Spirituality and Canonical Rights and Obligations of Priests Guest Lecturer: Jim Conn**

**4th Journal Reflection Due by Class Time (Suggested theme: your reflections on clericalism and/or the impact of the sexual abuse crisis on priesthood today)**

**Read**

*Selections* Part 2: The Spirituality of the Priest #45-48; 55; 59; 66-76. Available at  


*CIC* §129, 265-293, 672, 678-683, 1008-1009; 1024-1052 from the *Code of Canon Law*,  
[http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM)
Week 10 (November 5) Loss of the Clerical State; Sexual Abuse, Clericalism & Careerism  
**Guest Lecturer: Jim Conn**

**Case 3 Due**

**Read**


Week 11 (November 12) Church Teaching on Reserving the Priesthood to Males Only

**5th Journal Reflection On the Issue of Women’s Ordination Due by Class Time**

**Read**

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Inter insigniores* Declaration on the Question of Admission of Women to the Ministerial Priesthood (1976)  


**Recommended Reading**

John Paul II, Pope. *Ad tuendam fidem* Apostolic Letter *Motu proprio* by which certain norms are inserted into the Code of Canon Law and into the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches. Available at

Orsy, Ladislaus, SJ and Sullivan, Francis, SJ. Commentary on the CDF *Responsum ad dubium* on the doctrinal authority of *Ordinatio sacerdotalis*. America (9 December 1995): 4-6. Available on *Canvas*.


**Week 12 (November 19) Women’s Ordination and Pastoral Strategies on Dealing with these issues: Guest Lecturer Sr. Margaret Guider, OSF**

*N.B.* Sr. Guider suggests these **required reading** on this topic (all available on *Canvas*):


**Thanksgiving Break: No Class November 26th**

*However*, the Movie/Novel Priesthood Reflection Essay Is Due This Day

**Week 13 (December 3rd) Priesthood of Religious, Ecclesial Movements and Collaboration with Diocesan Bishops & Clergy** Guest lecturers Rev. Wayne Belschner (priest of the archdiocese of Boston and STM STD student and Rev. Anotonio Medeiros, Rector of the NeoCatechumenate House of Studies and STM STD student

*6*th Journal Reflection Due by Class Time (whatever theme you wish to discuss)

**Read**

Pope Francis and Fr. Spadoro, “Wake Up the World” Address to Major Superiors of Men on Formation [Electronic version available on *Canvas* and at http://www.laciviltacattolica.it/articoli_download/extra/Wake_up_the_world.pdf]

*CIC* 672, 678-683 [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM)

**Review** (required reading from Week 2)

**Recommended Reading**

*Mutuae Relationes* Directives For The Mutual Relations Between Bishops And Religious In The Church Available online at

John Paul II, *Vita consecrata* Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Consecrated Life Available online at

**Week 14 (December 10th) Presentation and Discussion of Religious Orders’ Charisms and Theologies of the Priesthood, and Presentation of the Movie or Novel Chosen for the Priesthood Essay. Missionary considerations, Inculturation, Priests and inter-cultural world, cross-cultural tensions**

**Read**


**View online Cross-Cultural Perspectives Power Point Presentation** https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/CrossCulturalPerspectivesBC.ppsx

**In-class Presentations** by students on Religious Charism of Religious Institutes represented in the class (Assumptionist, Capuchins, Edmundites, Jesuits, and Redemptorists)

**Final Essay of c. 10 pages due by 11:59 PM on Sunday December 14 (due to the BC grades deadline no extensions can be given)**