

Our Catholic Faith: Living What We Believe

Course Goal:

This semester course is an overview of what Catholics believe as presented in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Objectives:

- The student will understand that faith enables us to believe in God and in all that God has revealed.
- The student will understand that faith results in religion which binds us into a relationship with God.
- The student will understand that faith is a response to God's revelation and requires obedience or the submission of one's will to God.
- Students will understand that the Magisterium of the Church is responsible for interpreting and transmitting Catholic belief and teachings that are found in Sacred Scripture and Tradition.

Scope:

- I. God: Father and Creator**
 - A. Divine Revelation
 - 1. Sacred Scripture
 - 2. Sacred Tradition
- II. Jesus: Lord and Savior**
 - A. Mysteries of Christ's Life
 - 1. Christ's Death and Resurrection

III. The Holy Spirit

- A. The Holy Spirit in the Life of Christians
- B. The mystery of the Holy Trinity

IV. The Church: The Body of Christ

V. The Communion of Saints

VI. Celebrating Liturgy

A. Sacraments

- 1. Sacraments of initiation
- 2. Sacraments of Healing
- 3. Sacraments of Ministry

B. The Liturgical Year

- 1. Church time: liturgical seasons
- 2. Symbols emphasize each season

VII. Catholic Morality

- A. Conscience and moral decisions
- B. Virtue
- C. Sin, justification, and grace

VIII. Prayer

Recommended textbook (as of January, 2007):

Our Catholic Faith: Living What we Believe

Author: M. Pennock

Ave Maria Press, 2007

THE CHURCH: THE CONTINUATION OF CHRIST'S WORK IN THE WORLD TODAY

Course Goal:

This semester course is an overall survey of the nature of the Catholic Church in light of its history, purpose and implications to our daily life.

Objectives:

- The student will understand how Christ established the Church, through the interaction of Holy Spirit and Apostles
- The student will analyze the nature of the Church in light of Biblical images and models
- The student will recognize the characteristics of the marks of the Church
- The student will understand the purpose of the Church and its structures and authority
- The student will evaluate and justify the reasons for their participation in the Catholic Church

Scope:

- I. Acts of the Apostles**
 - A. Pentecost
 - B. Paul's Journeys
 - C. Apostolic foundations
 - D. Development of canon
- II. Models and Images of Church**
 - A. Ecclesiology

- B. Identify models
- C. Refer back to models as course goes on

III. Marks

- A. One
 - 1. Unity
 - 2. Eastern Schism
 - 3. Gnosticism
 - 4. Protestant reformation
 - 5. Current sects
 - 6. Ecumenism

- B. Holy
 - 1. Holiness
 - 2. Sin and Grace
 - 3. Saints (Augustine)
 - 4. Mary

- C. Catholic
 - 1. Universality of Church
 - 2. Ecumenism
 - 3. Inter-religious dialogue
 - 4. Salvation
 - 5. Fullness of Faith

- D. Apostolic
 - 1. Apostolic foundations
 - 2. Development of scripture and tradition
 - 3. Hierarchical structure
 - 4. Evangelization - mission
 - a.) Boniface
 - b.) Paul
 - c.) Patrick
 - d.) Modern missionaries

IV. Nature of Church

- A. Called by Christ
 - 1. Body of Christ
 - 2. Communion of Saints
 - a.) Francis of Assisi
 - b.) Mary
 - c.) Gregory I

- B. Structure
 - 1. Pope
 - 2. Bishops
 - 3. Emergence of priesthood
 - 4. Diaconate
 - 5. Monasticism
 - 6. Religious communities
 - a.) Active
 - b.) Contemplative
 - 7. Role of laity

- C. Authority
 - 1. Magisterium
 - 2. Precepts of the Church

V. Membership in the Church

- A. Why necessary
- B. Fullness of salvation
- C. Evangelization of others
- D. Nature of truth
- E. Sinfulness and the Church

Recommended textbook (as of January, 2007)

The Church: Our Story

Author: P. Driedger

Ave Maria Press

LIFE IN CHRIST (MORALITY)

Course Goal:

This course will challenge the student to recognize *God's* plan for humanity and we are free to respond to Him and His plan. It will explore *God's* plan, revealed through natural and divine law. It will focus on Christian discipleship in the contemporary world.

Objectives:

- The student will understand *God's* plan for humanity and our response to *God*.
- The student will define and identify original and personal sin and effects.
- The student will examine sources of knowledge for the Christian lifestyle.
- The student will investigate relationships between grace, conscience, virtues, sacraments, and prayer.
- The student will identify ways to apply knowledge of morality in a practical manner.
- The student will verify practical challenges to the moral life.

Scope:

- I Life in Christ**
 - A *God's* plan for us
 - B Our response to *God*

II Challenges to the Christian lifestyle

III Sources of knowledge

- A. Natural law
- B. Divine law
- C. Ten Commandments
- D. Beatitudes
- E. Discipleship and religious life
- F. Churches teaching authority

IV New life in Christ

V Applications

VI Challenges to moral life

- A. Free will
- B. Judgment
- C. Seeking reward
- D. Submission to God's will

Recommended textbook (as of January, 2007)

Your Life in Christ: Foundations of Catholic Morality

Author: M. Pennock

Ave Maria Press, 2007

SACRAMENTS AS THE PRINCIPAL MANIFESTATIONS OF CHRIST

Course Goal:

Through this course, the learner will understand the concept and importance of sacraments in the life of a Roman Catholic. The essential characteristics of each sacrament will be studied.

Objectives:

- The student will understand the nature of the sacraments in the Roman Catholic Church
- The student will be able to explain the elements, effects, requirements, implications and scriptural basis of each sacrament.
- The student will effectively answer challenges to worship and sacraments.

Scope:

I How the Sacraments continue the work of Christ

- A. The Church as the Body of Christ
- B. The Church as the Universal Sacrament of Salvation

II The celebration of Liturgy

III The Sacraments

- A. Baptism
 - i. Original sin
 - ii. Grace and the effect of baptism
- B. Confirmation

C. Eucharist

1. The perfect Sacrifice
2. The presence of God among Us
3. A pledge of future Glory

D. Penance

1. Sacramental forgiveness and reconciliation
2. Contrition
 - iii. The effects of the Sacrament of Penance

E. Anointing of the Sick

F. Holy Orders

G. Marriage

Recommended textbook (as of January 2007)

Our Sacramental Life: Living and Worshiping in Christ

Author: P. Driedger

Ave Maria Press, 2007

THE WORD OF GOD (Old Testament)

Course Goal:

By studying the structure, development and nature of the Bible, the learner will come to know how God revealed himself to the chosen people prior to the birth of Jesus.

Objectives:

- The learner will have knowledge of the Bible and the structure of the Bible.
- The learner will experience an apologetic approach for the existence of God.
- The learner will discover what it is like to be made in the image and likeness of God.

Scope:

- I. How do we know about God?
- II. Understanding the Old Testament-in light of Salvation History
- III. Creation
 - A. Trinity
 - B. Genesis: creation
 - C. Humanity as the ultimate of creation (Image/likeness of Trinitarian God)
- IV. Sin/Evil
 - A. Original holiness/justice
 - B. Original sin and consequences

V. God's Loving Response

- A. Promise of Messiah (*Genesis 3*)
- B. Covenant-general/specifics in Old Testament
- C. Salvation in Jewish history
- D. Promise fulfilled: Christ

Recommended textbook (as of January, 2007):

The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice.

Author: D. Smith-Christopher

Ave Maria Press, 2007

CHRIST: THE ETERNAL WORD **(New Testament)**

Course Goal:

By studying the structure, development and nature of the Bible, the learner will come to know that God continues to reveal Christ to us in our daily life.

Objectives:

- The learner will be exposed to natural and divine revelation and how to respond to Revelation.
- The learner will explore the doctrine of God in the Incarnation, person of Jesus, and the Holy Trinity.
- The learner will know how the church interprets the Bible in light of the Revelation of Jesus Christ
- The learner will study the humanity and divinity of Christ

Scope:

I The Mysteries of Christ's Life

II The Gospels

III The Letters

IV Christology of the Early Church

Recommended textbook (as of January, 2007):

Encountering Jesus in the New Testament

Author: M. Pennock

Ave Maria Press, 2007

LIFE IN CHRIST (PART II)

Social Justice

Course Goal:

This course will look at the Church's social teachings and traditions dealing with issues of justice. This will be done by critically analyzing Church documents, and the lived tradition of scripture in dealing with contemporary issues of social sin.

Objectives:

- The learner will examine God's plan for his people.
- The learner will explore the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching.
- The learner will identify sin and its social dimensions.
- The learner will apply social teachings of the Church.

Scope:

- I. Examine God's plan for his people**
- II. Explore the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching**
- III. Identify sin and its social dimensions**
- IV. Apply Social teachings of the Church**

Recommended textbook (as of January 2007)

Catholic Social Teaching

Author: M. Pennock

Ave Maria Press, 2007

SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE

Course Goal:

This course is a senior level class that helps to prepare the learner to live out a particular state of life, either married or ordained. The Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders are presented with a detailed emphasis on preparation requirements, the liturgical preparation, sacramental validity, and "effects." This is all within the context of our universal call to holiness.

Objectives:

- The learner will become aware of God's universal call to holiness and God's personal call to a particular state of life.
- The learner will appreciate the specifics of the sacrament of marriage from preparation to liturgy to validity.
- The learner will appreciate the origins and development of the sacrament of Holy Orders and the faces of the sacrament as lived out today.

Scope:

- I God's call to each of us**
 - a. Universal call
 - b. Personal call
- II Our response to that call: "serve one another"**
 - A. Jesus as model of service
 - B. Sacraments of service: Marriage and Holy Orders
- III Sacrament of Marriage**
 - A. Origins of the sacrament
 - B. Definition of the sacrament

- C. Celebration of sacrament
 - 1.) Liturgical requirements
 - 2.) Sacramental validity
- D. Immediate preparation for marriage
- E. Effects of sacrament
- F. Divorce and remarriage
- G. Interfaith marriages

IV Sacrament of Holy Orders

- A. Origins/development
- B. Faces of the sacrament today
 - 1.) Bishop
 - 2.) Priest
 - 3.) Deacon
 - 4.) Reserved for men
- C. Preparation
- D. Celebration of the sacrament
- E. Effects of the sacrament

Recommended textbook (as of January 2007)

Marriage and Holy Orders

Author: M. Amodei

Ave Maria Press, 2007