1. Course Description

1.1 Catalog Description: This course seeks to examine the nature of the Church as the mystery of God’s communion with us and our communion with each other in God. We will examine various approaches to ecclesiology, in particular the approach of communio. Attention to the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic provides a framework for consideration of particular issues facing the Church. Ecumenical issues are examined throughout the study and pastoral application for ministry is discussed when appropriate.

1.2 Course Context: Ecclesiology is to be seen in the context of the Trinitarian nature of Christian faith, and more specifically in the light of Christology and Pneumatology. Ecclesiology has close links to Soteriology, and in turn provides a context of understanding the priesthood of Christ and Mariology.

1.3 Course Objectives:
1. To instill in students an understanding of the Church as the mystery of faith and communion, and not simply a socio-religious institution.
2. To help students understand the contribution of Vatican II through a close study of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church - Lumen Gentium.
3. To expose the students to the various nuances and rich meaning of the four marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
4. To gain an historical perspective on the development of the Church’s understanding of what is her mission
5. To foster in students an ecumenical sensitivity and appreciation of the ecumenical movement.
6. To develop a balanced understanding of papal authority and its function, of its various historical models and present discussion of its role.
7. To assist students in seeing the pastoral importance of ecclesiology for future ministry through consideration of such issues as local/universal church, subsidiarity, inculturation/diversity in unity, theology of the episcopacy, synodality, mission of the laity, ecumenism/Church unity.

2. Topical Outline:
   Part One: Methodological Considerations with an Overview to the Study of Ecclesiology
   2.1
2.2 Doing Ecclesiology in the Light of Vatican II – A Brief History and Overview of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)

2.3 “Credo Ecclesiam”- I Believe in the Church – the Church as Made by the Spirit

2.3.1 The People of God

2.4 Fundamental Ecclesial Directions in the New Testament

2.4.1 The Church as Mystery: The Body of Christ

2.4.2 The Church as Temple of the Holy Spirit

2.4.3 The Church as Communion and Sacrament

Part Two: The Nature of the Church and Its Essential Characteristics

2.6 Essential Elements in a Theological Description of the Church

2.6.1 Some Aspects of the Church Understood as Communion (CDF May 28, 1992)

2.6.2 Note on the Expression <<Sister Churches>> (CDF June 30, 2000)

2.6.3 Response to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine of the Church (CDF June 29, 2007)

Part Three: I Believe in the One Church

2.7 The Church as a Communion of Churches

2.8 Other Realizations of the Church

2.9 Ecumenism in the Service of Unity

2.9.1 “That They May All Be One”: The Call to Christian Unity Today

2.9.2 The Binding Nature of Vatican II’s Decree on Ecumenism, Unitatis Redintegratio

2.9.3 The Current Situation in Ecumenical Theology

2.9.4 The Nature and Purpose of Ecumenical Dialogue

2.9.5 Open Questions in the Ecclesiology of Sister Churches

2.9.6 The Renewal of Pneumatology in Contemporary Catholic Life and Theology: Towards a Rapprochement between East and West

2.9.7 The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ)

2.9.8 A Discussion on the Petrine Ministry

2.9.9 Spiritual Ecumenism

2.9.10 Ecumenical Consensus, Convergences and Differences

Part Four: I Believe in the Apostolic Church

2.11 The Christian Community (Kingly, Priestly, Prophetic)

2.12 The Forms of Existence in the Church

2.13 The Apostolic Ministry: The Hierarchical Composition of the Church

2.13.1 Apostolic Succession

2.13.2 The Bishop with His Co-Workers: The Presbyters and Deacons

2.14 The Petrine Ministry and the Collegiality of Bishops

2.15 The Service of the Truth: The Infallibility

Part Five: I Believe in the Catholic Church

2.16 What Is the Mission of the Church? A Single but Complex Reality

2.16.1 God’s Love Source and the Dynamic Character of the Church’s Mission

2.16.2 The Universal Salvific Will of God

2.16.3 How the Concept of Mission Has Changed
2.16.4 The Why, Who and Where of Mission

Part Six: The Ecclesiology of Communion

Part Seven: The Church in the World

Part Eight: The Church and Interreligious Dialogue

Part Nine: I Believe in the Holy Church

2.17 The Eschatological Tension of the Holy Church

2.17.1 The Holiness of the Church

2.17.2 The Kingdom and the Parusia

2.17.3 Holiness and Sin in the Church

2.17.4 The Communion of the Saints

2.17.5 The Virgin Mary: Model and Mother of the Church

2.17.6 The Liturgy: Between Doxology and Fraternity

3. Required Reading Textbook:


4. Required Reading in Part of Ecclesial Documents: (Todos estan in espanol.)

*Ad Gentes* (Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity), Vatican Council II, 7 December 1965.

Declaration “Dominus Jesus” on the Unicity and Salvific Universality of Jesus Christ and the Church, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 6 August, 2000.

Evangelii Nuntiandi (Evangelization in the Modern World), Pope Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation, 8 December 1975.


Mystici Corporis Christi (On the Mystical Body of Christ), Pope Pius XII, Encyclical Letter, 29 June 1943.


Redemptoris Missio (On the Permanent Validity of the Church’s Missionary Mandate), Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, 7 December 1990.


Unitatis Redintegratio (Decree on Ecumenism), Vatican Council II, 28 October 1965.


5. Selected Bibliography:


6. Format of Presentation
This course will be a mixture of lecture, class discussion, small group work, quizzes and study review questions.

7. Required Workload
   7.1 Students are expected to complete all the assigned reading.
   7.2 There will be a Midterm and a Final Exam completed outside of class.
7.3 Students will prepare a Final Synthesis Project, due (March 14)
Suppose you were invited to give an hour presentation to an RCIA group or parish adult
education group summarizing the study of Ecclesiology entitled “Creo en la Iglesia
Una, Santa, Catolica, Apostolica.” What important points would you explore? Prepare
an outline for your presentation. Attach a brief explanation or note for each point in your
outline. You may use a PowerPoint format but it isn’t required. Finally compose five
questions you think the group might ask of you, and tell me clearly and succinctly
how you would answer them. Please submit the whole assignment in a single file.

8. Submission of Work:
8.1 Work should be submitted electronically in an email attachment as a Microsoft Word
or Rich Text file, to andersjb@stthom.edu
8.2 Format: Please identify each and every assignment you send with this label:
This is how my Final Project should appear:
8.3 Use this label in three places:
   a. In the topic of the email;
   b. As the name of the file;
   c. In the header on page one (1) of the paper, placed in the top left hand corner.
8.4 Rationale for the format: This format will organize each student’s work under his/her
   own name in my files, and facilitate my retrieval of each document without having to re-
   label it.

9. Grading:
   9.1 Class Participation & Quizzes, 5%
   9.2 Midterm Exam, 30%
   9.3 Final Exam, 30 %
   9.4 Final Synthesis Project 35%

10. Academic Standards
10.1 Academic Honesty: All the work you do in this course is expected to be your own.
Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper
attribution) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to
university policy and reported to the University’s Academic Misconduct Committee. They will
also be reported to appropriate ecclesiastical authorities where applicable.

As stated in the Norms of Conduct for the University of St. Thomas, academic misconduct
includes: (a) cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic
exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations,
intimidation, and any and all other actions that improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s
academic performance or achievement; (b) assisting others in any such act; (c) attempting to
engage in such acts.

Plagiarism is using the work of another person and claiming it as your own. The most
common types of plagiarism include:

- Using a paper or portion of a paper prepared by someone else;
- Quoting someone else’s language or words without proper quotation or citation; and
• Paraphrasing someone else’s ideas, framework, or insights without giving credit to the original author in a citation. Students are very **strongly urged** to consult the following websites for additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it:
  
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html
  http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz/

  **Academic misconduct in any form is unacceptable and suspected violations will be pursued aggressively.**

10.2 Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every meeting. Any absences without substantive reason (in the judgment of the instructor) will adversely affect your final grade. Regardless of the reasons for absence, students are responsible for the whole content of the course.

10.3 Disability Services: Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. Their offices can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 2169.

11. Office Hours: I am available to meet with students during the week. Times can be readily arranged by mutual agreement. Email is the preferred way of reaching the instructor. If you would like to have a conversation outside of business hours, please email to arrange an appointment. My email address and phone number are given at the top of the syllabus.

12. Calendar of Classes and Required Readings: Please note that the eight weeks have been divided into topics, with readings assigned and recommended for each topic.

| January | 17 |
|         | 24 |
|         | 31 |

| February | 07 |
|          | 14 Ash Wednesday – Midterm Exam outside of class time |
|          | 21 |
|          | 28 |

| March | 07 Last Class - Final Exam outside of class time |

**Week One and Two: January 17 & 24**  
**Required Reading:** Eclesiologia by Eloy Bueno de la Fuente, (henceforth Eclesiologia, pp. 3-70; Lumen Gentium – *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*

Part One: Methodological Considerations with an Overview to the Study of Ecclesiology  
2.1 Ecclesiology in History: The Way to Vatican II  
2.2 Doing Ecclesiology in the Light of Vatican II – A Brief History and Overview of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*)  
2.3 “Credo Ecclesiam”- I Believe in the Church – the Church as Made by the Spirit  
2.3.1 The People of God  
2.4 Fundamental Ecclesial Directions in the New Testament
2.4.1 The Church as Mystery: The Body of Christ
2.4.2 The Church as Temple of the Holy Spirit

**Week Three: January 31**

**Required Reading:** Eclesiologia, pp. 71-92; La Iglesia de Jesucristo by W. Kasper (henceforth Kasper) pp. 35-95; CDF Documents listed below

2.4.3 The Church as Communion and Sacrament
Part Two: The Nature of the Church and Its Essential Characteristics
2.6 Essential Elements in a Theological Description of the Church
2.6.1 Some Aspects of the Church Understood as Communion (CDF May 28, 1992)
2.6.2 Note on the Expression <<Sister Churches>> (CDF June 30, 2000)
2.6.3 Response to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine of the Church (CDF June 29, 2007)

**Week Four: February 07**

**Required Reading:** Eclesiologia, pp. 93-142.

Part Three: I Believe in the One Church
2.7 The Church as a Communion of Churches
2.8 Other Realizations of the Church
2.9 Ecumenism in the Service of Unity
2.9.1 “That They May All Be One”: The Call to Christian Unity Today
2.9.2 The Binding Nature of Vatican II’s Decree on Ecumenism, Unitatis Redintegratio
2.9.3 The Current Situation in Ecumenical Theology
2.9.4 The Nature and Purpose of Ecumenical Dialogue
2.9.5 Open Questions in the Ecclesiology of Sister Churches
2.9.6 The Renewal of Pneumatology in Contemporary Catholic Life and Theology: Towards a Rapprochement between East and West
2.9.7 The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ)
2.9.8 A Discussion on the Petrine Ministry
2.9.9 Spiritual Ecumenism
2.9.10 Ecumenical Consensus, Convergences and Differences

**Week Five: February 14 Ash Wednesday**

**Required Reading:** Eclesiologia, pp.143-252.

**Midterm Exam completed outside of class due February 21**

Part Four: I Believe in the Apostolic Church
2.11 The Christian Community (Kingly, Priestly, Prophetic)
2.12 The Forms of Existence in the Church
2.13 The Apostolic Ministry: The Hierarchical Composition of the Church
2.13.1 Apostolic Succession
2.13.2 The Bishop with His Co-Workers: The Presbyters and Deacons
2.14 The Petrine Ministry and the Collegiality of Bishops
2.15 The Service of the Truth: The Infallibility
Week Six: February 21
Required Reading: Eclesiologia, pp.253-272; Kasper, 261-396.

Part Five: I Believe in the Catholic Church
2.16 What Is the Mission of the Church? A Single but Complex Reality
2.16.1 God’s Love Source and the Dynamic Character of the Church’s Mission
2.16.2 The Universal Salvific Will of God
2.16.3 How the Concept of Mission Has Changed
2.16.4 The Why, Who and Where of Mission
Part Six: The Ecclesiology of Communion

Week Seven: February 28
Required Reading: Eclesiologia, pp.273-312; Kasper, pp. 397-425
Part Seven: The Church in the World
Part Eight: The Church and Interreligious Dialogue

Week Eight: March 07
Required Reading: Eclesiologia, pp. 313-328.
Final Exam completed outside of class due March 14
Synthesis Project – Credo en la Iglesia Una, Santa, Catolica, Apostolica- March 14

Part Nine: I Believe in the Holy Church
2.17 The Eschatological Tension of the Holy Church
2.17.1 The Holiness of the Church
2.17.2 The Kingdom and the Parusia
2.17.3 Holiness and Sin in the Church
2.17.4 The Communion of the Saints
2.17.5 The Virgin Mary: Model and Mother of the Church
2.17.6 The Liturgy: Between Doxology and Fraternity