1. Course Description

1.1 Catalog Description: An examination of ministry with historical and theological presentations of the ministerial priesthood. This course will include a discussion of the historical and contemporary roles of bishops, priests, and deacons. Special attention will be given to discussion of the spirituality of the priesthood. [Practical implications for priestly ministry and spirituality; Contemporary issues which impact the roles of bishops, priests, and deacons]

1.2 Goals: Students will (1) become familiar with the biblical sources of priesthood in the Old and New Testament; (2) gain an historical perspective on the systematic theological development of the sacrament of Holy Orders; (3) be introduced to an understanding of the ordained ministry as contained in the teachings of Vatican II, the 1971 Synod of Bishops document on the Ministerial Priesthood, and the 1992 Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Priestly Formation, Pastores Dabo Vobis; (4) be equipped to discuss and elucidate the various theological models of the ministerial priesthood present in today’s church; (5) consider the charism of priestly celibate chastity for the sake of the kingdom; (6) discuss the spirituality of the ministerial priesthood; (7) survey Christian ministry in an ecumenical perspective with emphasis on promoting women’s role while seeking to clarify the complex issue of the ordination of women; (8) move beyond the cultural and theological impasses that paralyze the church and its mission to have a vision of the ministerial priesthood that is both honest and hopeful.

2. Topical Outline

Section One – Biblical Foundations of Priestly Ministry

2.1 Introduction to the Theology of Ministerial Priesthood: Methodological Considerations in View of the Ministry of Jesus

2.2 Old Testament Priests and the Christian Faith:
The Priesthood, a Thorny Question for the First Christians

2.3 The Witness of Jesus Concerning His Own Priesthood;
Jesus Christ, the New Priest in the Letter to the Hebrews;
The Priesthood in the Doctrine and Consciousness of Paul

2.4 The Church of Christ, a Priestly People:
The Priesthood of the Faithful and the Ministerial Priesthood
Section Two – Priestly Ministry in Historical Perspective
2.5 The Institution of the Ministerial Priesthood and
The Development of Priestly Ministry in the Early Christian Communities

2.6 The History of Ministry in the Church from the First Centuries
until the Reformation

2.7 Ministry in the Theology of the Reformers vs.
the Sacrament of Order as Defined by the Council of Trent and Expressed
in the Counter-Reformation Theology

2.8 Ministry in the Documents of Vatican II and in the Post-Synodal Documents:
Implications for Various Models of Ministerial Priesthood in the Church Today

Section Three – Consecrated for Mission
2.9 Ranks in the Sacrament of Order: Bishop, Priest, Deacon;
The Rites of Ordination: Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi
Restoration of the Permanent Diaconate; Practical Encouragement and
Doctrinal Caution

2.10 The Meaning, Value, and Mystery of the Priestly Character:
Directory for the Ministry and the Life of Priests, 2013

Section Four – The Spousal Meaning of Celibate Chastity
2.11 The Issue of the Priestly Way of Life: Celibacy for the Sake of the Kingdom

2.12 The Spirituality of the Ministerial Priesthood:
The Differences and Similarities between Ministerial Priesthood and Common Priesthood of
the Faithful

2.13 Christian Ministry in an Ecumenical Perspective:
The Promotion of Women’s Role in the Church and
The Issue of the Ordination of Women

2.14 Celibacy in the Life of a Priest; Celibacy and Inculturation
When Ministry is Messy: Practical Solutions to Difficult Pastoral Problems

3. Textbooks (*) and Selected Bibliography:


Ricken, David L. Be Thou My Vision: Meditations on the Priesthood. 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, Nebraska 68178: The Institute for Priestly Formation Publications.


4. Format of Presentation
This course will be a mixture of lecture, seminar presentations, class discussion, and small group study sessions.

5. Required Workload
5.1 Students are expected to complete all the assigned reading.
5.2 There will be a Midterm and a Final Exam, both given orally. Quizzes may be given to review assigned readings.
5.3 Students will do two brief research assignments assigned during the semester.
5.4 Students will do a written book report: chosen from the following six books:


Hardcover: 122 pp.


For the book you choose, write a book report to include the following four essential elements:

1) **Statement of the author’s basic theme** - What was the author’s objective in writing this book?
2) **A brief summary of each chapter or major section of the book**
3) **The summary of two critical reviews of the book from theological journals and publications**
4) **Your own evaluation of the work** – Did the author accomplish what he proposed? in writing the book? How did this book assist your own reflections on the ministerial priesthood? (This question could take the form of new insights the book provided, or ways in which it helped you clarify your own thought in disagreeing with something(s) the author wrote.)

6. **Grading:** Midterm Exam (25%); Final Exam (25%); Two Brief Research Assignments (25%); Book report (20%); Active participation and quizzes (5%).

7. **Academic Standards**
7.1 **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://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html)
- [http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz/](http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz/)

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

7.2 **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.

7.3 **Disability Services**: If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact Counseling and Disability Services Office in Crooker Center on the main UST campus. Their offices can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 2199.

8. **Office Hours**: I am available to meet with students after class. Other times can be readily arranged by mutual agreement. Email is the preferred way of reaching the instructor. You may also phone my office during regular business hours. 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.

9. **Submission of Work**:

9.1 Work should be submitted as both printed manuscripts and electronically in an email attachment as a Microsoft Word or Rich Text file, to andersjb@stthom.edu.

9.2 Format: Please identify each and every assignment you send with this label: “7202.2018.Lastname,firstinitial.Assignmentname.”

This is how my Book Review should appear:


9.3 Use this label format 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.

9.4 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.

9.5 Written assignments are due before class on the dates given in the calendar.

10. Calendar of Classes and Readings:
The class meets twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45pm to 3:35pm for the duration of the Spring Semester 2018 as follows:

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Please note that each *Section* of the course has been divided into topics, with readings assigned and recommended for each *Section*.

**Week 1: Thursday, January 18, 2018**

**Section One – Biblical Foundations of Priestly Ministry**
Introduction to the Theology of Ministerial Priesthood: Methodological Considerations in View of the Ministry of Jesus

Required Reading:

Recommended Further Reading:

1. *The Priestly Ministry* (October 10, 1970) this study was approved by the Commission as a “working document”, i.e., “*in forma generica*”, to be transmitted to the Synod of Bishops, 3-87.

2. *Catholic Teaching on Apostolic Succession* (1973) this study was approved by the Commission “*in form specifica*” and reprinted in *The Tablet*, July 27, August 3, and August 10, 1974, 93-104.

3. *The Consciousness of Christ Concerning Himself and His Mission* (1985) this study was approved by the Commission “*in forma specifica*”, 305-316.


**Week 2: Tuesday & Thursday, January 23 & 25, 2018**
Old Testament Priests and the Christian Faith: The Priesthood, a Thorny Question for the First Christians

Required Reading:

**Week 3: Tuesday & Thursday, January 30 & February 01, 2018**
The Witness of Jesus Concerning His Own Priesthood
Jesus Christ, the New Priest in the Letter to the Hebrews
The Priesthood in the Doctrine and Consciousness of Paul

Required Reading:
Galot, 31-69; 93-104.

Recommended Further Reading:

**Week 4: Tuesday & Thursday, February 06 & 08, 2018**
The Church of Christ - A Priestly People: The Priesthood of the Faithful and the Ministerial Priesthood

Required Reading:
Galot, 105-128.
Torrell, 128-182.
Section Two – Priestly Ministry in Historical Perspective

Week 5: Tuesday & Thursday, February 13 & 15, 2018
The Institution of the Ministerial Priesthood and the Development of Priestly Ministry in the Early Christian Community
Required Reading:
Galot, 71-91; 155-176.

Week 6: Tuesday & Thursday, February 20 & 22, 2018
The History of Ministry in the Church from the First Centuries until the Reformation
Required Reading:
Nichols, 35-86.

Recommended Further Reading

Week 7: Tuesday & Thursday, February 27 & March 01, 2018
Selection of Book for Critical Review
Ministry in the Theology of the Reformers vs. the Sacrament of Order Defined by the Council of Trent and Expressed in Counter-Reformation Theology
Required Reading:
Nichols, 87-143.

Week 8: Tuesday & Thursday, March 06 & 08, 2018
Midterm Exam – Oral outside of class
Ministry in the Documents of Vatican II and Afterwards in the Synodal Documents: Implications for Various Models of Ministerial Priesthood Present in the Church Today
Required Reading:
Galot, 129-153.
Torrell, 128-182.

Recommended Further Reading:

Section Three – Consecrated for Mission

Week 9: Tuesday, March 20 & 22, 2018
First Research Assignment Due
Ranks in the Sacrament of Order: Bishop, Priest, Deacon
The Rites of Ordination: *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*
Restoration of the Permanent Diaconate; Practical Encouragement and Doctrinal Caution
Required Reading:
Galot, 177-193.
Recommended Further Reading:


**Week 10: Tuesday & Thursday, April 03 & 05, 2018**
The Meaning, Value, and Mystery of the Priestly Character:
Directory for the Ministry and the Life of Priests
Required Reading:
Galot, 195-215.

Recommended Reading:

Section Four – The Spousal Meaning of Celibate Chastity
**Weeks 11: Tuesday & Thursday, April 10 &12, 2018**
The Issue of the Priestly Way of Life: Celibacy for the Sake of the Kingdom
Required Reading:
Galot, 217-250
Nichols, 155-165.

Recommended Further Reading:

**Week 12: Tuesday & Thursday, April 17 & 19, 2018**
The Spirituality of the Ministerial Priesthood: The Differences and Similarities between the Ministerial Priesthood and the Common Priesthood of the Faithful
Required Reading:
Cattaneo, 53-92.
Torrell, 183-208.

Recommended Further Reading:


**Week 13: Tuesday & Thursday, April 24 & 26, 2018**

**Book Review is due**

Christian Ministry in an Ecumenical Perspective: The Promotion of Women’s Role in the Church and the Issue of the Ordination of Women

Required Reading:
Galot, 251-267.
Nichols, 144-154.

Recommended Further Reading:

**Week 14: Tuesday & Thursday, May 01 & 03, 2018 (Last day of Class)**

**Second Research Assignment Due**

**Final Comprehensive Exam - Oral during exam session**

Celibacy in the Life of a Priest: Celibacy and Inculturation:
When Ministry is Messy: Practical Solutions to Difficult Pastoral Problems

Required Reading:
Cattaneo, 93-122.