



PLIT 232

Spring 2009

The Eucharist

Prof. F. J. Parrella

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

A syllabus is not to be considered final until the first meeting of the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- This course introduces the student to the mystery and meaning of the Eucharist, the greatest of Christian liturgical actions and the most sacred of the sacraments of the church. The Eucharist celebrates the Paschal Mystery, the center of Christian life; thus, the Eucharist will be examined in an historical, ecclesiological, sacramental, and moral/ontological contexts. Post-Vatican II interpretations of the Eucharist, appropriate to both theology and ministry, such as contemporary models of the Eucharist, will be at the center of the course.
- Students should learn more than a body of information, but a way of thinking theologically and sacramentally. The course should help the student comprehend the appearance of divine grace in the realm of the finite that is, according to faith, crystallized in the bread/body and wine/blood of the Christ. The course also seeks to make theology a practical science, one that affects both the individual and the community, and a science that is always in service to the Church.

REQUIRED READINGS

- Salinger, J. D. "For Esmé With Love and Squalor." In *Nine Stories*, 87–114. New York: Bantam Books, 1964.
- Tillich, Paul. "Symbols of Faith." In *Dynamics of Faith*, chapter 3. New York: Harper and Row, 1957. Reprinted in *Main Works*, vol. 5, *Writings on Religion*, edited by Robert Scharlemann, 250–256. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1988. In bookstore packet with copyright permission.
- Parrella, Frederick J. "A Tale of Two Sundays: Liturgical Reform Gone Astray." *The Christian Century* 97 (1981): 988–993; also available on line at: <http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=1712>
- Parrella, Frederick J. "Tillich's Understanding of Symbol and Contemporary Catholic Sacramentality," in the *Internationales Jahrbuch für die Tillich-Forschung*, Band 2. [International Yearbook for Tillich Research, vol. 2]. Münster: LIT-Verlag (2006): 101–116. In bookstore packet.
- Dwyer, John C. "The Implication of Tillich's Theology of the Cross for Catholic Theology." In *Paul Tillich: A New Catholic Assessment*, edited by Raymond F. Bulman and Frederick J. Parrella, 73–90. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1994. In bookstore packet.
- Lane, Dermot. "A Theology of the Paschal Mystery." In *Christ at the Centre. Selected Issues in Christology*, 103–129. New York: Paulist, 1991. In bookstore packet.
- Macy, Gary. *The Banquet's Wisdom: A Short History of the Theologies of the Lord's Supper*. New York: Paulist, 1992; reprint: Akron, Ohio: Order of Saint Luke Publications, 2005.
- Baldovin, John. *Bread of Life, Cup of Salvation. Understanding the Mass*. Kansas City: Sheed and Ward, 2003.
- Irwin, Kevin. *Models of the Eucharist*. New York: Paulist Press, 2005.

Daly, Robert J. "Robert Bellarmine and Post-Tridentine Eucharistic Theology." In Raymond F. Bulman and Fredrick J. Parrella, eds. *From Trent to Vatican II: Historical and Theological Investigations*, 81–101. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. Revised version of article in *Theological Studies* 61, 2 (2000): 239-260.

SUGGESTED READINGS

General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM). Including Adaptations for the Dioceses of the United States of America. Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 2003.

Power, David N. *The Eucharistic Mystery. Revitalizing the Tradition*. New York: Crossroad, 1993.

Kilmartin, Edward J. *The Eucharist in the West: History and Theology*, ed. Robert J. Daly. Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1999.

Kilmartin, Edward J. "The Catholic Tradition of Eucharistic Theology: Towards the Third Millennium," *Theological Studies* 55 (1994): 405-457.

Kilmartin, Edward J. *Christian Liturgy: Theology and Practice*. Kansas City: Sheed and Ward, 1988.

Mitchell, Nathan. *Real Presence: The Work of the Eucharist*, revised edition. Chicago: Liturgical training Publications, 2000 [1998].

Daly, Robert J. "Eucharistic Origins: From the New Testament to the Liturgies of the Golden Age." *Theological Studies* 66 (2005): 3–22.

Osborne, Kennan. *Christian Sacraments in a Postmodern World: A Theology for the Third Millennium*. New York: Paulist, 1999.

PAPERS

Three papers are required for the course. Please follow the instructions on the *Writing Guides* carefully. You will find them at the beginning of the course packet. Remember each paper must have: (1) a title page; (2) page numbers.

For the papers, the form to be used is the University of Chicago method, found in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th ed. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1994). This approach has been made popular in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, 6th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. This small book, first published in 1937, contains all the information on the mechanics of a term paper: capitalization, footnotes or endnotes, spelling, punctuation, bibliographies, typing, etc. Also recommended for style and good writing is William Strunk and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 3rd ed., New York: Macmillan, 1979. This classic work, first written in 1935, contains chapters on elementary rules of word usage, principles of composition, formation of style, matters of form, and words and expressions commonly misused in writing.

–PAPER ONE

A brief 3 (three) page *minimum* essay on the theological and sacramental significance of J.D. Salinger's short story, "For Esme with Love and Squalor." What does the story suggest about the universal and concrete mystery of healing? About grace/ eucharist abounding, beyond the borders of altar and church?

Be sure to ground your conclusions in the text of the story and make explicit reference to it.

• Due: Third week

–PAPER TWO

A paper about 6 (six) pages *minimum* using the assigned readings with footnotes in proper form on the topic:

- “Signs, Symbols, and Sacraments in the Life of the Church.”

Consider some of the following questions in developing your ideas: What is the meaning of symbol and sacrament? How is a sacramental world-view essential to any religious understanding of reality? Of a Christian and/or Catholic perspective? How does our theological understanding of God, Christ, grace, church all depend on sacrament? How are the great historical events of Christianity—Jesus’ birth, life, preaching, death, resurrection, and the sending of the Spirit—also sacramental? How and why is the Eucharist the central sacrament of the church/churches? Use the readings by Parrella, Tillich, Lane, Dwyer

- Use the required readings of the course, but also feel free to develop your ideas from additional readings from the bibliography or from other courses in the program, especially fundamental theology, Christology, and ecclesiology.

- Due: Seventh week

–PAPER THREE

A paper about 10 (ten) pages *minimum* using the assigned readings with footnotes in proper form using at least two of the following sources, and any additional sources the student may want to use:

— Kevin Irwin, *Models of the Eucharist*

— John Baldovin, *Bread of Life, Cup of Salvation. Understanding the Mass*

— Gary Macy, *The Banquet’s Wisdom: A Short History of the Theologies of the Lord’s Supper*

— Robert J. Daly, “Robert Bellarmine and Post-Tridentine Eucharistic Theology”

- The general topic is: “Models of the Eucharist and the Life of the Church.”

Which models are essential and effective theologically and pastorally? Which models are more faithful to the historical foundation of the Eucharist and its central place in the life of the church, its pastoral importance, and its eschatological significance? How does the history of the liturgy and its developing structure through the centuries help us understand a theology of the Eucharist today? What does a theology of the Eucharist say about the church and one’s understanding of the church say about the Eucharist?

- Students may choose any one or more of numerous approaches: scriptural, historical, theological, pastoral, et al. The select bibliography may be helpful to you in doing the paper, especially the recommended readings listed above.

- Develop your paper according to your own life and your place in the graduate program: pastoral, ministerial, academic, scholarly, etc.

- Due: Eleventh week: no later than 9 June 2009.

ATTENDANCE

A student is expected to attend all classes and the material covered and announcements are the student’s responsibility. Reasons exist why a student *cannot* or *does* not attend class. Failure to attend class means that the student will be unfamiliar with the assigned reading material as well as ideas presented and discussed in class for the required papers. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to keep up to date with the course. You can call me seven days a week with any questions you have; if you are ill or cannot attend class on a particular evening, you can inform me beforehand.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- Please make every effort to arrive at class on time. Many of you are working and/or have family responsibilities, but your timely arrival is appreciated.
 - Please be sure your cell phone is turned off. You would never want your phone to ring in class.
- Thank you.

GRADING POLICY AND CLASS STYLE

- Grades will be based on the three papers required for the course. They will be evaluated on the basis of students' ability: **(1)** to reveal to the reader their command of the assigned readings in both depth and breadth; **(2)** to develop a clear argument of the student's choosing, based upon the required readings and supplementary bibliography and to develop this argument in a coherent, scholarly, and creative fashion.
- Since this is a course in a pastoral ministries program, the papers may and should involve some pastoral application but *not* at the expense of a rigorous academic examination of the topic.
- References to the texts—either citations or direct quotations—are essential to a successful grade.
- Class discussion and questions are important. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and ask questions or offer comments on them.
- The grade of Incomplete will be given out only under special and unusual circumstances. Please make every effort to complete your work in a timely manner.

SCHEDULE

Please follow the schedule as closely as you are able. There are 11 weeks in the quarter.

- | | | |
|------|-----|--|
| Week | 1. | Introduction; J. D. Salinger, "For Esme..." |
| | 2. | J. D. Salinger, "For Esme..." P. Tillich, "Symbols of Faith." |
| | 3. | F. J. Parrella, "Tillich's Understanding of Symbol and Contemporary Catholic Sacramentality" |
| | 4. | "The Implication of Tillich's Theology of the Cross for Catholic Theology"; D. Lane, "A Theology of the Paschal Mystery" |
| | 5. | J. Baldovin, <i>Bread of Life, Cup of Salvation...</i> |
| | 6. | G. Macy, <i>The Banquet's Wisdom...</i> |
| | 7. | G. Macy, <i>The Banquet's Wisdom...</i> ; K. Irwin, <i>Models of the Eucharist</i> , models 1–5. |
| | 8. | K. Irwin, <i>Models of the Eucharist</i> , models 6–10. |
| | 9. | K. Irwin, <i>Models...</i> |
| | 10. | Conclusion |
| | 11. | Final Paper due |

CONSULTATION

My office is in Kenna Hall, Suite 300, Room H. If you wish to consult with me at any time about your papers or any other issue related to the course, please make an appointment after class or by telephone for a mutually convenient time. *I will always be available before your class, and many times after class, if this time is the only time convenient for you.* You may call me at home on any day of the week at a reasonable hour with questions you may have. Often brief questions can be discussed over the phone in order to save time for both of us. Of course, you may also reach me by email.

Remember a quarter goes very quickly and it is up to you to keep up with the assignments. If you call or Email me, be certain to leave a telephone number where you can be reached. Telephone usually is preferred over Email because questions and ideas can be exchanged immediately. Use Email for very short, factual questions. Thank you.

One word of advice: *relax and be good to yourself while you study, think, and write. I want to help you learn how to do theology and will try to be of assistance throughout the term.*

Home phone: 408.259.8225

Office phone: 408.554.4714

Pastoral Ministries Program: 408.554.4831

Email: fparrella@scu.edu

“When I shall be dead, tell the kingdom of the earth that I have loved it much more than I ever dared to say.”