



**PMIN 204 Church
Fall 2009**

Monday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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Some questions we will explore in this course:

- 1) What did the Church look like in the New Testament period after the death of the apostles? (We'll look at 7 different Ecclesiologies found in the New Testament.)
- 2) What were the effects of Vatican II on the Church? Are the changes wrought by Vatican II likely to lead to more changes in the future? Would this be desirable? Why or why not?
- 3) Some of the issues facing the Church today include the shortage of clergy, decline in attendance at Mass, mandatory celibacy for priests, attitudes toward homosexuality, ordination of women, premarital sex, birth control, abortion, globalization, ethics in economics, etc. How do practicing Catholics regard these issues in the light of Church teachings?
- 4) Given the faith-conviction that "the Church cannot fail" because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, what should the Church look like in 2040?
- 5) Is it possible for the Church to change and stay the same?

Why are these topics worth exploring?

- 1) These topics offer an intellectual challenge: how much do we know about the Church (past and present)?
- 2) As an adult Catholic, these matters offer the opportunity to deepen one's awareness of the complexity of Church tradition.
- 3) Exploring what scholars say about these topics may trigger personal insights that advance or refute the arguments presented in the texts.
- 4) Successfully completing the course should give you some mastery of the material as well as the ability to express your reasoned opinions orally and in writing.

Required texts:

- 1) Raymond Brown, THE CHURCHES THE APOSTLES LEFT BEHIND
- 2) Jerome Baggett, SENSE OF THE FAITHFUL: HOW AMERICAN CATHOLICS LIVE THEIR FAITH
- 3) William Cavanaugh, BEING CONSUMED: ECONOMICS AND CHRISTIAN DESIRE
- 4) John O'Malley, WHAT HAPPENED AT VATICAN II?
- 5) Denise Carmody, AN IDEAL CHURCH: A MEDITATION

These texts (#1 – 4) will be available in the Bookstore. (#5 will be a gift from the author.)