Course Unit Outline

Unit Code

T7328

Unit Name

Theology of Priesthood

Unit Weighting

9 cps

Type of Unit

Specialised

Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions

One 7200 series unit in Theology

Academic Staff

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Curriculum Objectives

This course unit explores the history, theology and practice of ministry in the church in the sacrament of Holy Order. With baptism as a starting point the sacrament of Order is considered in relation to the saving ministry of Jesus in the church and the world.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

- 1. outline the major historical developments in the sacrament of holy order
- 2. display an understanding of the distinction between the priesthood of all the baptised and the ordained priesthood
- 3. provide a theological analysis of the elements of the sacrament
- 4. distinguish the different orders within the sacrament and their specific features and ministries
- 5. respond critically to contemporary questions about ministry in the church

Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit

Content

- 1. Biblical foundations: priesthood in the Old Testament; the priesthood of Christ; New Testament origins of ministerial priesthood
- 2. The early church after Nicaea: Chrysostom, Ambrose, Augustine, Gregory the Great
- 3. The development of major and minor orders; the issue of the episcopate as a separate order; Aguinas on matter and form of the sacrament
- 4. The Reformation and the teaching of the Council of Trent on Holy Order
- 5. The teaching of the Second Vatican Council: the priestly, prophetic and kingly mission of the laity; the ministerial priesthood; bishops
- 6. The Rite of Ordination; the effects of the sacrament
- 7. Priestly celibacy: history, theology, issues
- 8. The tradition of a male priesthood
- 9. Priests and the sacrament of Penance
- 10. The challenge of clerical scandals and the need for purification

Learning Activities

Lectures, tutorials

Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment

Nil

Assessment Profile

Assessments tasks are designed both to help students attain the unit outcomes and to enable teachers to assess student attainment. In this unit, the required assessment tasks will enable students to demonstrate how successfully they can:

- 1. Outline the major historical developments in the sacrament of order (e.g. short paper, student presentation) [Outcomes 1, 3]
- 2. Provide a theological analysis of the sacrament of holy order (e.g. essay) [Outcomes 2, 3, 4]

3. Respond critically to contemporary questions about ministry in the church (e.g. critical review, tutorial participation) [Outcomes 2, 5]

Representative References

- 1. Dietrich, Donald. *Priests for the 21st Century*. New York: Crossroad, 2006.
- 2. Dulles, Avery. The Priestly Office: A Theological Reflection. New York: Paulist, 1997.
- 3. Galot, Jean. *Theology of the Priesthood*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1985.
- 4. Goergen, Donald & Ann Garrido, eds. *The Theology of Priesthood*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2000.
- 5. Levering, Matthew. Christ and the Catholic Priesthood. Chicago: Hillenbrand Books, 2010.
- 6. McGovern, Thomas. Priestly Celibacy Today. Princeton NJ: Scepter Press, 1998.
- 7. McGovern, Thomas. *Priestly Identity*. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2002.
- 8. Nichols, Aidan, O.P. *Holy Order: The Apostolic Ministry from the New Testament to the Second Vatican Council*. Dublin: Veritas 1990.
- 9. O'Collins, Gerald & M. Keenan Jones. Jesus Our Priest. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- 10. Ratzinger, Card. Joseph. *Called to Communion: Understanding the Church Today*, San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1996.
- 11. Ruddy, Christopher. *Tested in Every Way*. New York: Crossroad, 2006.
- 12. Stoups, David L. Reclaiming our Priestly Character. Nebraska: IFP Publications, 2008.
- 13. Vanhoye, Albert. Old Testament Priests and the New Priest. Leominister UK: Gracewing, 2009.