

THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE *and* HUMAN SEXUALITY (ThM 544)

Fall, 2021. Instructor: Fr. Luke Dysinger, O.S.B.

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COURSE WEBSITES: <http://ldysinger.stjohnsem.edu> [alt: <http://ldysinger.com>]; <https://www.stjohnsonis.com>

COURSE SYLLABUS

DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the Christian theology of sexuality, with emphasis on the moral and pastoral implications of Christian marriage and celibacy. Human sexuality will be studied from the perspective of the theology of redemption of the whole person in Jesus Christ, including especially the redemption of the body. In recent years three interrelated themes have figured prominently in authoritative Catholic teaching documents: the sexual abuse crisis; the “theology of the body;” and the “language of the body”. The sexual abuse crisis will be studied on the basis of the three John Jay Studies. The “theology of the body” includes the history and development of Catholic doctrine concerning the sacramentality and holiness of marriage, as well as the moral and spiritual significance of Christian celibacy. Learning the “language of the body” entails recognition of the ontological meaning of human acts and careful assessment of choices that either facilitate or impede the acquisition of virtue.

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will be able to interpret, explain, and apply the principal concepts of the “Theology of the Body” of Pope Saint John Paul II.¹
 2. Students will understand the implications of the different moral theories employed in secular society and in official Catholic teaching documents. They will be able to teach these theories in the parish as part of the New Evangelization and in the context of Catholic apologetics.²
 3. Students will understand and be able to articulate the mutually-illuminating interrelationship between consecrated celibacy and Christian marriage.³
 4. Students will appreciate the multicultural factors and diversity of experiences that influence the formation of conscience, the understanding of sinfulness, and models of holiness.⁴
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COURSE FORMAT *and* EVALUATION

1. This course will combine lecture and class discussion based on assigned readings. Active participation in class discussions is essential, and will figure into the final evaluation.
2. A research project will be undertaken concerning the teaching of Natural Family Planning in the parish setting. Students are to contact the Office for Family Life in their respective dioceses and determine what resources are available in their diocese, including trained teachers, online resources and “apps”. The presentation should be oriented towards encouraging awareness of natural family and teaching at the parish, deanery, or diocesan levels, as appropriate. The seminary student body represents a broad spectrum of multicultural diversity, with a concomitantly wide range of preference for either verbal or written presentations. In recognition of this, students will be offered the opportunity of choosing either:
 - A. a written research paper of between eight and twelve pages, including appropriate references (due on or before Tuesday, November 9, 2021); or
 - B. an oral presentation lasting twenty to twenty-five minutes using Powerpoint or student-designed webpages, A digital recording of the oral presentation must either be embedded in the Powerpoint or submitted together with the digital presentation (due on or before Tuesday, November 9, 2021).
3. The midterm and final examinations will consist of take-home case-studies. Students will have one week to return their answers, which should be typed and contain appropriate references.

4. Late work will be accepted for a grade only if the professor grants an extension of the deadline: requests for extensions must be submitted in writing with a clear explanation of the reason for the request. Out of fairness to those who submit their work on time, late work for which an extension has been granted will normally be graded down by one-half letter grade for each day it is late.
5. In research papers and on exams students must clearly distinguish between their own words and sources they are citing. Failure to credit sources that are cited constitutes plagiarism and may result in a grade of “F”.
6. Submission of the two examinations and the research papers is required for successful completion of the course. The final course grade will be computed as follows:

Class participation	10%
Research paper or oral presentation	30%
Midterm Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%

REQUIRED TEXTS: [All required readings may be downloaded from the seminary Sonis site]

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Human Sexuality, an All-Embracing gift, by Gerald Coleman, (Alba House).ISBN: 081890643X

Sex, Priestly Ministry, and the Church, by Len Sperry (Liturgical Press, Collegeville, 2003). ISBN: 0814629679

Male and Female He Created Them, A Theology of the Body, by Pope St. John Paul II, tr. M. Waldstein (Pauline Books, 2006) ISBN: 0819874213

A Catholic Bioethics for a New Millennium, by Anthony Fisher, O.P. (Cambr.UP, 2012) ISBN: 978-1107-00958-5

Sex and Virtue, An Introduction to Sexual Ethics, by J,S, Grabowski, (Cath.Univ.Pr. 2003) ISBN: 0-8132-1345-2

REQUIRED CATHOLIC TEACHING DOCUMENTS:

(all of the following may be read on the course website)

The Council of Trent §24 (*on Marriage*)

Pope Leo XIII, *Arcanum (On Christian Marriage)*

Pope Pius XI, *Casti Conubii*

Pope Pius XII, *Sacra Virginitas*

Pope Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae, Sacerdotalis Caelibatus*

Vatican Council II, *Gaudium et Spes*

Pope St. John Paul II: *Evangelium Vitae; Familiaris Consortio; Mulieris Dignitatem; Veritatis Splendor; Vita Consecrata; Fruitful and Responsible Love; Reflections on Humanae Vitae*

Pope Benedict XVI: *Deus Caritas est (God is Love); On Family and Christian Community; Caritas in Veritate (on Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth)*

Pope Francis: *Amoris Laetitia* (2016 Apost.Exh., “On Love in the Family”); *As A Loving Mother* (2016 Motu Proprio on removal of prelates not diligent in dealing with abuse of minors); *You Are the Light of the World* (2019 Motu Proprio on the sexual abuse crisis); *Interview with Fr. Spadaro*, SJ (Aug.2013); *Address to Catholic Physicians* (Sept., 2013).

SCDF: *The Reception of Holy Communion by the Divorced and Remarried Members of the Faithful; Vademecum for Confessors; On The Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons; Declaration on certain questions concerning sexual ethics (Persona Humana); Dignitatis Personae (On Certain Bioethical Questions; Responsum on Not Blessing Unions of Persons of the Same Sex* (2021).

Congregation for Catholic Education: *Male and Female He Created Them: Towards A Path of Dialogue on the Question of Gender Theory in Education* (2019)

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace: *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

ADDITIONAL COURSE RESOURCES

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers (1997)

Ministry to Persons With A Homosexual Inclination (2006)

Married Love and The Gift of Love (2006)]

THE JOHN JAY STUDIES of *Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Clergy* (2004-2011)

2004 *The Nature And Scope of Sexual Abuse of Minors By Catholic Priests and Deacons in The United States 1950-2002*

2006 *The Nature and Scope of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons in the United States: Supplementary Data Analysis for The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

2011 *Report to the USCCB: The Causes And Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in The United States 1950-2010*

Resources on Natural Family Planning

1981 Martin, *Fertility Acceptance and Natural Family Planning*

2010 Standards for Diocesan NFP Ministry

2017 NFP-Week Bulletin Insert

2019 Homily Notes: *Love Naturally*

2019 NFP Bulletin *Love Naturally*

2020 NFP Week Bulletin Insert *Live the Truth* [PDF]

California Natural Family Planning Organization (additional resources): (President/contact: Sheila St. John: sheila@canfp.org)

Cholij,R.,*Clerical Celibacy in East and West* (Gracewing, 1989).

— *Priestly Celibacy in Patristics and in the History of the Church*, (Online article)

Congregation for the Clergy, *The Gift of Priestly Vocation / Ratio Fundamental* (2016)

Goerss, Jane Ph.D, *Psychopathy and Predictors of Violence Towards Women*
Handouts on predictors of violent behavior

Hogan, Fr. Richard M An Introduction to John Paul II's Theology of the Body;

Hruz, Paul W. *et aliae*, "Growing Pains: Problems with puberty suppression in treating gender dysphoria," *The New Atlantis*, Number 52, Spring 2017, pp. 3-36:

Kheriaty, Aaron MD, *Pornography and Sexual Addiction; Gender and Sexual Orientation* (2-part video presentation)

Part 1: *Pornography and Sexual Addiction:*

Part 2: *Sexual Desire and Identity*

Mayer, L. *et. aliae* (*Sexuality and Gender, Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences*, New Atlantis, 2019).

McHugh, Paul R. "Surgical Sex: Why We Stopped Doing Sex Change Operations," *First Things*, November 2004.

— "Transgender Surgery Isn't the Solution," *Wall Street Journal*, May 13, 2016.

- Selin, G., *On the Christological, Ecclesiological, and Eschatological Dimensions of Priestly Celibacy in “Presbyterorum Ordinis,” “Sacerdotalis Caelibatus” and Subsequent Magisterial Documents*, (Washington, 2011).
- West, Christopher, *Theology of the Body for Beginners: A Basic Introduction to Pope John Paul II’s Sexual Revolution*, (Rev.Ed., Ascension Press, 2009).
- “Theology of the Body - A [VERY] Brief Introduction”.
 - “Transgender Surgery Isn’t the Solution,” *Wall Street Journal*, May 13, 2016:
- Hruz, Paul W. *et aliae*, “Growing Pains: Problems with puberty suppression in treating gender dysphoria,” *The New Atlantis*, Number 52, Spring 2017, pp. 3-36.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Anderson, Ryan, *When Harry Became Sally*
- Austriaco, *Biomedicine and Beatitude, An Introduction to Catholic Bioethics* (CUAP, 2011)
- Brown, Peter, *The Body and Society, Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity*, (Columbia Univ. Press, 1980)
- Cahill, Lisa, *Between the Sexes, Foundations for a Christian Ethics of Sex*
- Cessario, Romanus, *Introduction to Moral Theology* (Cath.Univ.Pr. 2001)
- *The Moral Virtues and Theological Ethics*, (Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 1991)
- [**N.B. the following is a secular publication recommending some therapies that contradict teachings of the Catholic Church. It is listed here as an example of the widespread approach to sexual orientation found in contemporary psychology**]: DeBord *et aliae* , *Handbook of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity in Counseling and Psychotherapy*, (American Psychological Association, 2019)
- DeHaro, *Marriage and The Family in The Documents of the Magisterium: A Course in The Theology of Marriage* (Ignatius, 1993)
- Grabowski, *Sex and Virtue* (Cath.Univ.Pr. 2012).
- Grabowski, J.S. and Naughton, M. J “In Defense of Natural Law” (Article defending natural law)
- Gregg, S, “Dignitatis Humanae and the Catholic Human Rights ‘Revolution’”.
- Grisez, Germain, *The Way of the Lord Jesus*, by: vol. I *Christian Moral Principles*; vol. 2, *Living a Christian Life*; vol. 3, *Difficult Moral Questions* (Franciscan Press, 1997).
- Hall, R.C., *A [Clinical] Profile of Pedophilia* (Mayo Clinic Proceedings, 2007).
- Haynes, Laura, PhD (Clinical Psychologist) PDF doc’s of PowerPoint Presentations on Gender Ideology:
- *Transgender Identity Is Not Inborn, Changes, and May Have (Treatable) Psychological Causes* (2021)
 - *Sexual Orientation And Gender Incongruence Change; [They] May Have (Treatable) Psychological Causes— And Other Confessions OF The American Psychological Association And Research* (2020)
 - *Sexual Orientation: Sexual Orientation Is Not Inborn, May Have (Treatable) Psychological Causes— and Other Confessions of the American Psychological Association: Part I—Causes* (2021)
 - *Sexual Orientation: [...] Part 2—Change and Therapy* (2021).
- Hill, Wesley, “Another Thirst” (Spiritual defense of purity and primacy of intimacy with Christ).

- Hoppe, Debi - Sympto-Thermal *Natural Family Planning* (NFP) Instructor:
- NFP Powerpoint 2020 Debi Hoppe
 - NFP Powerpoint 2020 Debi Hoppe in pdf format
 - NFP Powerpoint 2012 *for Seminarians*
 - NFP Powerpoint - History and Practice (2017)
 - NFP Powerpoint 2008 *for Seminarians*
 - Debi Hoppe Oct 2020 Video: Introd to NFP Part 1 of 2
- Hauerwas, S., “Sex in Public” (Article on modern crisis in sexual morality)
- Lewis, C.S., *Selections on Love, Marriage and Sexuality*
- May, William, *Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life*, ISBN 0-87973-683-6 (Our Sunday Visitor, 2000).
- *The Cultural and Ecclesial Situation 1964 to 1967: Paving The Way for Dissent from Church Teaching on Contraception*, by , (*Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly*, Fall, 2009, pp.10-19 [includes discussion of the Paul VI Commission on Contraception])
- McClymond, Michael J., “The Last Sexual Perversion, An Argument in Defense of Celibacy”
- Parris, M. :[N.B. **Although NOT compatible with Catholic teaching, this article is unusually honest about issues of relevance to moral theology**] “Straight Talk About the New Gay World” (*London Times*, Nov.17, 2001).
- Pathella, *et al.* “Discordance between Sexual Behavior and Self-Reported Sexual Identity: A Population-Based Survey of New York City Men” (*Annals of Internal Medicine*, October 2006).
- Pontifical Council for the Family, *Vademecum for Confessors on Marriage* “(1997)
- Shrier, *Irreversible Damage, The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters*, (Regnery/Salem, 2020).
- Soh, Debra, *The End of Gender: Debunking the Myths about Sex and Identity in Our Society*, (Threshold, 2020).

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Classes will meet on Monday, from 10:00-10:50 and Tuesday, from 8:00-9:50.

1. AN OVERVIEW OF CATHOLIC TEACHING *on Human Sexuality, Chastity, Marriage, and Celibacy*. [4 hrs.]

READINGS:

Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, selections (course website)

INTRODUCTION: Creation (§ 355-384); Fall (§ 385-421); Eternal Life (§ 1020-1060);

HUMAN SEXUALITY: Sacrament of Matrimony (§ 1601-1666); Ethics of Life (§ 2258-2330); Sexuality and Chastity (§ 2331-2350); Offenses Against Chastity (§ 2351-2356); Homosexuality and Chastity (§ 2357-2359); Marital Sexuality (§ 2360-2379); Offenses Against Marriage (§ 2380-2400)

Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas est*.

2. THE PRESENT CRISIS IN SEXUAL MORALITY: *a Spiritual and Theological Appraisal*

A. The Sexual Abuse Crisis [2 hrs.]

READINGS: *The John Jay Study*; Jenkins, *Pedophiles and Priests*, selections, (course website); Sperry, *Sex. Priestly Ministry, and the Church*, ch. 1, “Sex and Sexuality – Everything You Need to Know” (course website)

B. Ministry, Friendship, and the Universal Need for Appropriate Boundaries [2 hrs.]

READINGS: *Healthy Boundaries: Working Guidelines and Personal Strategies* Fr. Quinn Connors, O.Carm., Ph.D. *Managing Ministerial Risks*, Fr. Michael N. Kane

C. Models of Christian Modesty and Intimacy [2 hrs.]

READINGS: Coleman, Introduction, pp. xiii-xxi. C.S. Lewis: 1, *The Four Loves*, ch. 2, “Eros”, *The Screwtape Letters*, selected letters. Hauerwas, “Sex in Public” (course website). *The Last Sexual Perversion – A Defense of Celibacy*, Michael J. McClymond

3. ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING AND CATHOLIC MORAL PRINCIPLES [4 hrs.]

READINGS: Pope John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor* (course website); “*Dignitatis Humanae* and the Catholic Human Rights ‘Revolution’”, Coleman, ch. 1 pp. 1-42.

4. THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF CATHOLIC TEACHING *on Human Sexuality, Chastity, Marriage, and Celibacy* [3 hrs.]

A. The Early and Medieval Church. *Marriage as Sacrament; The History and Spirituality of Clerical Celibacy* [2 hrs.]

READINGS: Peter Brown, *The Body and Society*, selections, (course website). Coleman, ch. 1 pp. 42-54. *Clerical Celibacy in East and West*, R. Cholij, selections, (course website).

B. The Modern Church. *Sexuality and Sacramentality* [1 hr.]

READINGS: *Casti Connubii, Gaudium et Spes, Humanae Vitae, Familiaris Consortio* (course website). *On the Christological, Ecclesiological, and Eschatological Dimensions of Priestly Celibacy in “Presbyterorum Ordinis,” “Sacerdotalis Caelibatus” and Subsequent Magisterial Documents*, G. Selin, selections (course website).

5. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE “THEOLOGY OF THE BODY”

[2 HRS.]

Readings: Selections from Pope John Paul II, *Catechesis on Genesis* and *Catechesis on the Sermon on the Mount* (course website). Coleman, ch. 2.

6. HUMAN SEXUALITY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: *Developmental Sexuality; Sexual Maturity; and Impairment of the Will.*

Psychopathology, Psychopathy and assessing the risk of violence. Addiction and 12-Step programs. Gender Dysphoria, “Gender Ideology/Theory” and the “transsexual”[3 hrs.]

READINGS: *DSM IV-R on Relevant Psychopathology* (course website); Sperry, *Sex. Priestly Ministry, and the Church*, ch. 2, “The Process of Psychosexual Development” (course website); *Sexuality and Gender, Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences*, L.Mayer, P. McHugh.

7. FERTILITY IN MARRIAGE [4 hrs.]

A. The Physiology of fertility and human reproduction [2 hrs.]

B. Catholic Moral Teaching and the Practice of Contraception [1 hr.]

READINGS: Pope Paul VI - *Humanae Vitae*; Pope John Paul II - *Evangelium Vitae; Familiaris Consortio* (selected texts); Coleman, ch. 4.

C. Natural Family Planning, Methods and Resources [2 hrs.]

Presentation by Debi Hoppe, NFP (sympto-thermal) Instructor.

8. THE MARRIAGE COVENANT [3 hrs.]

A. Theology of Marriage: Sacramental and Canonical Aspects. [1 hr.]

READINGS: Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*. Pope John Paul II: *God the Author of Marriage. The Code of Canon Law*, selections (course website). “Annulment Reform”, NCR, June 2017

B. Stages of marriage and celibacy. Caring for troubled marriages: Divorce and remarriage: special pastoral and moral concerns. [2 hrs.]

READINGS: Coleman, ch. 4. SCDF: *The Reception of Holy Communion by the Divorced and Remarried Members of the Faithful; Vademecum for Confessors*.

9. TOWARDS A COVENANT THEOLOGY OF CELIBACY [2 hrs.]

Presentation by Msgr. Craig Cox, Former Vicar for Clergy, Archdiocese of Los Angeles and former Rector, St. John's Seminary.

READINGS: SCDF: *Declaration on certain questions concerning sexual ethics (Persona Humana)*. Pope John Paul II, *The Theology of Marriage and Celibacy*, selections, (course website). Coleman, ch. 6-7. Sperry, *Sex. Priestly Ministry, and the Church*, ch. 3, "Sexuality, Intimacy, and Celibacy" (course website). *On the Christological, Ecclesiological, and Eschatological Dimensions of Priestly Celibacy in "Presbyterorum Ordinis," "Sacerdotalis Caelibatus" and Subsequent Magisterial Documents*, G. Selin, selections (course website).

10. A PASTORAL APPROACH TO HOMOSEXUALITY [2 hrs.]

READINGS: Coleman, ch. 5 & 9; SCDF: *On The Pastoral Care of the Homosexual Person*. Presentation on "Courage" Ministry by Fr. Ed Benioff

11. COMMON BIOETHICAL DILEMMAS IN MARRIAGE [5 hrs.]

A. Artificial Insemination, *In vitro* fertilization; Embryo Adoption [1 hr.]

READINGS: Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*; SCDF, *Instruction on Respect for Human Life (Donum Vitae)*, *On Certain Bioethical Questions (Dignitatis Personae)*, Coleman, ch. 8.

B. HIV/AIDS; Abortion. [2 hr.]

C. Finding Christ at the end of life [2 hr.]

READINGS: SCDF, *Declaration on Euthanasia, (Jura et Bona)*

¹ Benchmark for Goal #1: At least 80% of students will receive a grade of "B" or higher on exam questions testing their ability to teach principal insights of the Theology of the Body using the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

² Benchmark for Goal #2: At least 80% of students will receive a grade of "B" or higher on a presentation concerning the teaching of Natural Family Planning.

³ Benchmark for Goal #3: At least 80% of students will receive a grade of "B" or higher on exam questions testing their ability to articulate the mutually-enhancing theology and spirituality of consecrated celibacy and sacramental marriage.

⁴ Benchmark for Goal #4: At least 80% of students will receive a grade of "B" or higher on exam questions testing their understanding of social and cultural factors that influence the formation of conscience..