



**Course Title: Biblical Theology of the Priesthood** (1 credit)  
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 Location: Pontifical University of the Holy Cross

**I. Course Description**

An overview of the biblical theology of the priesthood, with special attention to the Letter to the Hebrews. The course studies the priesthood of Christ and the Christian priesthood (ministerial priesthood and common priesthood) in light of the various models of priesthood in the Old Testament. It also examines the biblical roots of the papacy, as the priestly authority conferred on Peter by Jesus. Related topics to be treated include the biblical concepts of covenant, sacrifice, and temple.

**II. Course Objectives**

- (1) To be able to explain the New Testament support for the priesthood of Christ and the Christian priesthood (ministerial priesthood and common priesthood).
- (2) To understand the various Old Testament models of priesthood and their relationship to the New Testament priesthood.
- (3) To understand the biblical roots of the papacy.
- (4) To be able to answer common objections against Catholic teaching on the priesthood.

**III. Reading Assignments: Table of Contents of Course Packet (Excerpts):**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Torrell, Jean-Pierre. <i>A Priestly People: Baptismal Priesthood and Priestly Ministry</i> . New York: Paulist, 2013. ....  | 2   |
| (2) Vanhoye, Albert. <i>Old Testament Priests and the New Priest: According to the New Testament</i> . Petersham, MA: St. Bede’s Publications, 1986. ....   | 6   |
| (3) Ratzinger, Joseph. “The Ministry and Life of Priests,” in <i>Pilgrim Fellowship of Faith</i> . San Francisco: Ignatius, 2005. ....  | 8   |
| (4) Ratzinger, Joseph. “The Essence of the Priesthood,” in <i>Called to Communion</i> . San Francisco: Ignatius, 1996. ....   | 11  |
| (5) Galot, Jean. <i>Theology of the Priesthood</i> . San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1985. ....  | 25  |
| (6) Collins, John J. <i>The Scepter and the Star: Messianism in the Dead Sea Scrolls</i> (Second Edition). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010. ....   | 33  |
| (7) Rooke, Deborah W. “Kingship as Priesthood: The Relationship between the High Priesthood and the Monarchy,” in J. Day, ed., <i>King and Messiah in Israel and the Ancient Near East</i> . ....   | 38  |
| (8) Rooke, Deborah W. “Jesus as Royal Priest: Reflections on the Interpretation of the Melchizedek Tradition in Hebrews 7,” <i>Biblica</i> 81 (2000): 81-94. ....                                   | 49  |
| (9) Hahn, Scott W. <i>Kinship by Covenant: A Canonical Approach to the Fulfillment of God’s Saving Promises</i> . Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009. .... | 56  |
| (10) Fletcher-Louis, Crispin H.T. “Jesus as the High Priestly Messiah: Part 1,” <i>Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus</i> 4 (2006): 155-175. ....  | 78  |
| (11) Fletcher-Louis, Crispin H.T. “Jesus as the High Priestly Messiah: Part 2,” <i>Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus</i> 5 (2007): 57-79. ....  | 88  |
| (12) Bauckham, Richard. <i>The Testimony of the Beloved Disciple: Narrative, History, and Theology in the Gospel of John</i> . Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007. ....                                      | 100 |
| (13) Feuillet, André. <i>The Priesthood of Christ and His Ministers</i> . Garden City: Doubleday, 1975. ....  | 109 |
| (14) Benedict XVI / Ratzinger, Joseph. <i>Jesus of Nazareth: Part Two: Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection</i> . San Francisco: Ignatius, 2011. ....                    | 111 |
| (15) Coloe, Mary. <i>God Dwells with Us: Temple Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel</i> . Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2001. ....   | 118 |
| (16) Beale, G. K. <i>The Temple and the Church’s Mission: A Biblical Theology of the Dwelling Place of God</i> . New Studies in Biblical Theology. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004. ....          | 122 |
| (17) Fornberg, Tord. “Peter – the High Priest of the New Covenant?” <i>East Asian Journal of Theology</i> 4 (1986): 113-121. ....   | 124 |
| (18) Michael P. Barber, “Jesus as the Davidic Temple Builder and Peter’s Priestly Role in Matthew 16:16-19,” <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> 132 (2013): 935-953. ....                        | 128 |

**IV. Grading: Final exam** (1 hour) based on the lectures and selected readings.