

STMA 515: Ritual Prayer and Healing

Spring Quarter, 2007

Hunthausen Hall, Room 100

Fridays, 1:30 to 4:20 p.m.

3 Credits

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Texts

- *And You Visited Me: Sacramental Ministry to the Sick and the Dying*, by Charles Gusmer (Pueblo Books/Liturgical Press, 1989)
- *The Death of A Christian: The Order of Christian Funerals*, by Richard Rutherford (Pueblo Books/Liturgical Press, 1990)
- *The Rites of the Catholic Church*, Vol. 1, 3rd ed. (Pueblo Books/Liturgical Press, 1990)
- Course Reader, STMA 515-01, Seattle University Reprographic Services, Spring 2007 (contains a total of eight articles and book chapters)

Course Description and Objectives

The gospels portray Jesus as a teacher and healer, as well as how these two key aspects of his ministry were entwined. Empowered by the Spirit of the Risen Christ, the church continues the mission of glorifying God in pastoral-ritual service to life-stories of human brokenness and healing. This course explores the liturgical dimension of this work as found in the rites of the Roman Catholic Church, but with the expectation that students from other ecclesial bodies will pursue and present comparative projects of the rituals, instructions, and practices of their own denominations. In turn, Catholic students will gain exposure to at least one other tradition. The Roman Catholic rites are the focus due to: (1) the historical, ecumenical impact of the Second Vatican Council's constitution on the liturgy and subsequent liturgical reform on the wider liturgical renewal in Christianity; (2) the professor's expertise as a Catholic theologian; and (3) the principle that sound comparative theology relies on strong knowledge of one tradition in comparison with one or more others. We will study and perform rituals of the Pastoral Care of the Sick and the Order of Christian Funerals closely (with briefer attention to the Rite of Penance), read and discuss history and theology related to these rites, and write papers integrating the course materials with our own theological thought and pastoral practice.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Class Work:

- Attendance and active participation in each class session is required (as is notification in advance to the professor should a student need to miss one session). Completion of the assigned reading for a given session is essential for actively participating in class.
- Each student will participate on a team leading the class in the celebration of one ritual from among the rites covered in the course. Students will need to meet as a group once with the professor, together prepare and execute the ritual for the class during one of the regular class sessions, and participate in the group's self-evaluation of the project. The professor will provide criteria for evaluation, and the group will inform him of their assessment by either inviting him to the discussion or submitting a one-page summary.
- This class work will altogether constitute 40% of the final grade and will be evaluated on the basis of the student's presence, contribution to class discussions or questions, and role in the preparation, execution, and self-evaluation of the ritual group project.

Written Work:

- *Option One:* The student writes two papers, each 5 to 6 pages (1500 to 2000 words) in length. The first will be on the Pastoral Care of the Sick, and the second, the Order of Christian Funerals. Each paper will be an exercise in applying the textual course material to a pastoral question, problem, or theological theme provided by the professor (or a student-generated one agreed upon with the professor). Since this option would not necessarily have an ecumenical/comparative dimension, students choosing it would be expected to read at least two articles or essays on theology and practice in one or more other Christian traditions. No writing on that would be required, but it is important that all get ecumenical exposure and education in some way.
- *Option Two:* The student writes one 10-page paper (3000 to 4000 words) exploring some aspect of the history and practice of ritual prayer and healing in one's own ecclesial tradition (e.g. Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian, etc.) and will give either brief presentations relevant to a few particular class sessions or a fifteen minute presentation on the topic during one of the last class sessions. This option would require consultation with the professor concerning topic and bibliography and agreement on the prospectus by May 4th. Perhaps a helpful way to pursue this option (for both the particular student and the whole class) would be for the student to locate and read one essay/article/book chapter/ritual text in her/his ecclesial tradition pertinent to the topic for a given week. The professor or the STM liturgical consultant or Professor Vasconcelos Wilkey could provide advice, suggestions, or guidance.
- *Option Three:* Students may choose to write one long (10 page) paper on some other research topic, or may wish to propose an alternative topic for one or the other of the two short papers. This option would require consultation with the professor concerning topic and bibliography and agreement on the prospectus by May 4th.
- *Deadlines:* If a student chooses the first option, the papers will be due May 4th and June 1st. For the second option (or an alternative single paper, Option Three) the deadline would be June 1st. Any need for an extension must be worked out *in advance* of a given due-date. The latest possible date for all submissions will be June 4th, as the professor will be leaving Seattle University on June 6th.
- *Guidelines:* The professor will provide detailed, printed guidelines for each paper of Option One well in advance and present these in class so as to allow student questions. All students will follow the "STM Writing Guidelines" (largely based on Kate Turabian's *Manual*), submitting papers in hard copy, with a cover page, and simply stapled in the upper left corner.
- *Weight and Evaluation:* The written work will total 60% of the course grade (either for the one paper, or 30% for each of the two papers). Criteria for grading (according to the standards of Seattle University) will be provided on the assignment sheets and can be summarized as concerning comprehension and integration of material, clarity (grammar and syntax), organization (structure and argument), and evidence of original engagement or integration of the material (self-appropriation). All work must be original and the product of the student's own reading, research, thought, and writing. Footnoting or parenthetically citing all directly quoted or paraphrased material is essential to academic integrity.

Schedule of Classes

3/30 Christ the Healer: Scripture and Tradition

Overview of course, student introductions, discussion of expectations
Lecture and discussion of “Christ the Healer”

4/13 Pastoral Care of the Sick: History and Tradition

Reading: Gusmer, *And You Visited Me*, 51-66, 172-94
PCS, prenotanda and nos.1-41, in *The Rites*, 769-789
Optional reading in various ecclesial traditions

4/20 Ministry to the Sick: Visiting and Holy Communion

Reading: Gusmer, *And You Visited Me*, 51-66, 172-194
Pelligrine and Thomesma, in *Helping and Healing*, 26-37
Ashley and O’Rourke, *Health Care Ethics* (4th ed.), 433-462
Optional reading in various ecclesial traditions

4/27 Sacramental Anointing of the Sick

Reading: Gusmer, *And You Visited Me*, 66-94
Empereur, *Prophetic Anointing*, 141-203
PCS nos. 42-160, 297, in *The Rites*, 790-843, 896-902
Optional reading in various ecclesial traditions

Ritual Group: Visits of the Sick and/or Communion of the Sick

5/4 Ministry to the Dying

Reading: Gusmer, *And You Visited Me*, 99-136
Ashley and O’Rourke, *Health Care Ethics* (4th ed.), 394-431
PCS, nos. 161-274, 298-306, in *The Rites*, 844-886, 903-908
Optional reading in various ecclesial traditions

Ritual Group: Sacrament of Anointing the Sick
and

Submission of first paper for those doing writing Option One

5/11 Christian Funerals: History and Tradition

Reading: Rutherford, *The Death of a Christian*, 3-112
Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*, 95-106
Optional reading in various ecclesial traditions

Ritual Group: Celebration of Viaticum and/or Prayers for the Dead

5/18 The Order of Christian Funerals

Reading: Rutherford, *The Death of a Christian*, 115-267
Melloh, “Homily or Eulogy,” in *Worship* 67:6 (1993), 502-518
Optional reading in various ecclesial traditions

- 5/25 Practicing the Order of Christian Funerals and Optional Denominational Presentations
Reading: OCF, prenotanda, nos. 1-409, in *The Rites*, 921-1107
Optional reading in various ecclesial traditions
Ritual Group: Vigil for the Deceased or Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass
and
Possible Denominational Presentations
- 6/1 Reconciliation and the Rite of Penance
Reading: Empereur & Kiesling, *The Liturgy That Does Justice*, 131-154
Sobrino, *The Principle of Mercy*, 83-101
Rite of Penance, prenotanda, nos. 1-214, and appendices,
in *The Rites*, 523-629
Optional reading in various ecclesial traditions
and
Possible Denominational Presentations
and
Submission of papers for all writing options
- 6/4 Absolute Deadline for All Written Work