

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY/KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

at *The University of Western Ontario* Fall, 2015

T-5541A

Theology of Sacramental Reconciliation and Healing

Tuesday, 9:30 - 11:20 a.m.

St. Peter's Seminary

(Room 115)

Instructor: Fr. Pio Beorchia

Office: St. Peter's Seminary (SPS) Rm 327

Hours: Contact me by email or arrange an appointment

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- 1) **Description:** This course is a multi-disciplinary treatment of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The disciplines from which the sacraments will be viewed are: Sacred Scripture, tradition (doctrine), liturgy, culture and the pastoral, with some treatment of the juridical aspect. These will be presented through the development in sacred history of these two sacraments. The Rite of Penance and the Pastoral Care of the Sick, the two official liturgical texts of these sacraments, present the doctrine of the Church upon which we can reflect theologically.
- 2) **Goals:** This course will allow the student to grow in the following knowledge, skills, and attitudes:
 - a) **Knowledge:**
 - i) To understand how the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are part of God's plan, the "economy of salvation";
 - ii) To understand how Christ is the primary sacrament, how the Church is the sacrament of Christ, and how these two sacraments illustrate this;
 - iii) To understand how these sacraments are actions of the Trinity;
 - iv) To know the biblical background of each of these sacraments and how this is to be understood in the light of modern exegesis;
 - v) To know the historical and magisterial development of each of these sacraments, and to be able to distinguish what is essential and constant and what is transient in their development;
 - vi) To know how these sacraments are liturgical celebrations, and to be familiar with the liturgical texts;
 - vii) To know the key theological articulations of each of these sacraments, i.e., their matter and form, what is *ex opere operato* and *ex opere operantis* in terms of their sacramental efficacy, what is required for validity, liceity, and fruitfulness, and what is required of the ministers and the recipients;
 - viii) To see how these sacraments are encounters with Christ and not just "things";
 - ix) To see what are the current theological developments pertinent to these sacraments;
 - x) To understand the theological and disciplinary problem areas regarding sacramental reconciliation, and some of the legitimate new orientations as well as "pastoral pitfalls" in these areas;
 - xi) To understand the specific dimensions of each of these sacraments as they affect our Christian lives regarding growing in our spirituality, prayer, life of ongoing conversion, and experiencing sickness and death in a Christian perspective, i.e., identifying with the Paschal Mystery of Christ.
 - b) **Skills:**
 - i) To develop the ability to discover and explain the various historical documents and magisterial teachings relevant to the sacrament of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick;

- ii) To understand the theology underlying each of these sacraments and to be able to apply it in various environments with pastoral sensitivity and to be able to communicate it to the various kinds of parishioners (children, adolescents, married and single people, seniors) so that they can be moved to experience and celebrate these sacraments with new zeal and love;
- iii) To be able to connect the theology of these sacraments with the various appropriate liturgical themes as well as canonical ones, seeing them as an integrated but distinct whole;
- iv) To appreciate the cultural and social analyses surrounding each of these sacraments so that various connections can be made to create links among them so that the relevancy of all aspects is seen as complementary and not disjunctive, e.g. the relevancy of various self-help groups (A.A.);
- v) To connect the theology of sacramental reconciliation with wider issues in peoples' lives demanding reconciliation and to develop skills which allow for various kinds of celebrations of reconciliation and healing in pastoral settings;

c) Attitudes:

- i) To engender Christ's attitude of humility and zeal in being an "ambassador of reconciliation" even in the presence of dissension and division; to be aware that the whole Church is a reconciling church;
- ii) To instill an attitude of wonder and awe at the grand power of God's healing Spirit at work in our world of today;
- iii) To foster a pastoral spirit respecting both the person in his or her life-situations and the demands of the teachings of our faith;
- iv) To develop a respectful attitude for various sacramental traditions regarding reconciliation and anointing in multi-cultural environments as well as appreciating how the faith and the sacraments are inculturated;
- v) To appreciate how the Holy Spirit is at work and how penance is present on many levels drawing all to repentance and to Christ;
- vi) To be growing in a caring and sensitive attitude in dealing with the sick and the suffering as well as celebrating the sacrament of the anointing of the sick with great sensitivity in such delicate situations;
- vii) To appreciate how silent presence can also be healing and restorative;
- viii) To develop attitudes of service and mission in dealing with reconciliation and with the sick.

3) ASSESSMENT

a) Expectations of this course

- i) Sacramental Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick have undergone dramatic developments from their institution, both in theory and in practice. Today many people are searching for a meaningful way of handling their deepest sentiments of sickness, human weakness, guilt, sin and reconciliation with one another and with God. We will discover some of ways that these fundamental themes can be explored from BOTH an experiential and theological/historical approach so that we can be better ministers of these two sacraments in our church and world today.

b) Benefiting from our pastoral experience:

- i) Each fourth and fifth year student has been in pastoral ministry for at least a year. Most, if not all, have been exposed to some kind of programs dealing with either or both of these sacraments. All have spoken to people about them. Other students in the course also have had some rich experiences with these sacraments. We hope to build on this rich mix of experience in this course.
- ii) The academic requirements are designed to corroborate fresh readings with your pastoral experiences. It is an opportunity to read materials which can give you both solid theological insights regarding the history and practice of reconciliation and healing as well as pastoral means of applying these insights. The purpose of the readings is not simply to pass the course, but to discover some great ideas as to how we can make reconciliation and healing relevant to a

world that desperately needs them but does not quite know how to experience them in their lives today.

- iii) We also want to do some collaborative learning with those who are involved with pastoral experience in presenting our Roman Catholic teachings regarding these two sacraments.

4) ASSIGNMENTS:

- a) Class seminar: Each presenter is expected to present a thirty-minute seminar on one of the topics listed below. A one-page outline for each member of the class is to accompany the seminar. The focus is a pastoral one. This is an opportunity to explore written, and audio/visual materials on reconciliation and healing to discover some useful materials which will help in future ministry in this area. The student may also consult priests and pastoral ministers in order to discover practical insights. Remember the goal is the person – how will you offer to the person an opportunity of faith, hope, and charity that will benefit them and the Church? The topics for this seminar are as follows:
 - i) Teaching about sin and reconciliation in RCIA programs today. How would you present an RCIA session on these topics?
 - ii) Preparing children for First Confession through a parish program for those attending public schools. What would such a program entail? What would the concluding First Reconciliation Liturgy look like?
 - iii) Communal preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Healing Services in the life of the parish. How would you prepare for these and what form would your Penance Service or Healing Service or Reconciliation and Healing Service take?
 - iv) Preparing teenagers, members of youth groups, groups of pilgrim youth for the sacrament. How would you prepare this very specific demographic and what would a liturgy of the Sacrament of Penance look like for them?
 - v) Teaching about sickness and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in RCIA programs today. How would you present an RCIA session on these topics?
 - vi) Connecting the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Healing Ministry. How would you make this connection pastorally? See Scanlan, Michael, *The Power in Penance: Confession and the Holy Spirit*, Notre Dame, IN, Ave Maria, 1972.
 - vii) If you wish something more theoretical present a seminar on the theology of sacramental reconciliation of a serious theologian along with pastoral implication and applications.
- b) Reflection paper: This is a 3-4 page paper reflecting on the 1984 apostolic exhortation of St. Pope John Paul II, *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*. You are asked to offer how the Holy Father's exhortation conforms or does not conform to your pastoral experience using references to the exhortation and examples from your experience.
- c) A final exam: The exam questions may be taken from:
 - i) any and all materials covered in class;
 - ii) any and all materials presented in the seminars;
 - iii) any and all materials from course texts and assigned reading.
- d) Class Participation: this includes attendance, contributing to discussions through questions and comments, listening and responding respectfully to the contributions of others.
- e) Summary of marks for the work done:
 - i) Seminar 30
 - ii) Reflection Paper 15
 - iii) Class Participation 10
 - iv) End of term exam 45
 - v) TOTAL: 100

5) TEXTBOOKS

- a) Coffey, David M., *The Sacrament of Reconciliation*, Collegeville, Minn., Liturgical Press, 2001.
- b) Kasza, John C., *Understanding Sacramental Healing*, Chicago/Mundelein, Illinois, Hillenbrand Books, 2007.

6) COURSE OUTLINE:

- a) Introduction. Biblical Origins of Repentance, Conversion and Reconciliation. Origins of the Rite of Penance.
- b) “Sacramental” Reconciliation: Phase I: Solemn Canonical Penance (100 – 500 AD)
 - i) Patristics; St. Augustine on the Anthropologies of Sin and Conversion
- c) “Sacramental” Reconciliation: Phase II: Individual Tariffed Penance (500 –1100 AD)
- d) Sacramental Reconciliation: Phase III: Consolidation and Reform (1100 –1900 AD)
 - i) St. Thomas Aquinas on the Theology of the Sacrament; the Council of Trent
- e) Sacramental Reconciliation: Phase IV: 20th Century Renewal (1900 – 2000 AD+)
- f) Sacramental Reconciliation: Phase V: Concerns since the *Ordo Paenitentiae* (Rite of Penance 1973)
- g) Revisiting Sin and Forgiveness in a “culture of death”:
 - i) See: John Paul II, *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, December 2, 1984.
- h) The Rite of Penance
- i) Reconciliation Today
- j) The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Biblical Origins; Anthropologies of Illness and Healing.
- k) The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Historical Development; Theology of the Sacrament
- l) The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: The Rite; the Practice of the Sacrament

7) POLICIES REGARDING SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS

- a) Students are responsible for knowing the University’s academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. These can all be found at the University’s website (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>). Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:
 - i) Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates as given above. Assignments may not be dropped off at the office or submitted electronically.
 - (1) It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. For a serious reason, a student may approach the professor before the due-date, and may be granted an extension at the discretion of the professor. Any medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean’s Office. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission. Medical accommodations for work less than 10% will be dealt with on a case by case basis with the professor. No medical documentation will be required for this.
 - ii) No electronic devices will be allowed during tests or examinations, unless approved in advance by Student Services at the University or King’s.
 - iii) Students who miss tests will negotiate a “make-up” date with the professor. Any medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean’s Office.
 - iv) **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically of what constitutes a Scholastic offence, at the following Web site:
[Http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)
 - (1) Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.
 - v) **Selection and Registration of Courses:** Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

8) SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY (Basic Resources)

- a) Some Official Church Documents
 - i) *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Ottawa, CCCB, 1997, #1440-98;
 - ii) *Code of Canon Law*, Rome, 1983, canons 959-97;

- iii) The Roman Ritual, *Pastoral Care of the Sick – Rites of Anointing and Viaticum*, Ottawa, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1983;
 - iv) John Paul II, *Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation "Reconciliatio et Paenitentia"*, Rome, 1984.
 - v) *Rituale Romanum, Ordo Paenitentiae*, Roma, Typis Polyglottis Vaticanus, 1974; (*The Rite of Penance*, Washington, DC, USCCB Publications, 2010)
 - vi) John Paul II, Apostolic Letter in the form of *Motu Proprio, Misericordia Dei*, Apr. 7, 2002.
 - vii) John Paul II, Apostolic Letter "Salvifici Doloris", Rome 1984.
 - viii) Paul IV, *Apostolic Constitution "Indulgentiarum Doctrina"*, Rome, Jan. 1, 1967.
- b) More Recent Comprehensive Texts:
- i) Cuschieri, Andrew, *The Sacrament of Reconciliation: A Theological and Canonical Treatise*, Lanham, Md., Univ. Press of America, 1992; (presents many resources)
 - ii) Dallen, James, *The Reconciling Community – The Rite of Penance*, NY, Pueblo Publishing Co., 1986; (very thorough)
 - iii) Tierney, Clement, *The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation*, NY, Costello publishing, 1983; (theological treatment of conversion and the Paschal Mystery)
- c) Some Recent Periodical Updates (useful for class preparation):
- i) *Chicago Studies*, Vol. 34, no. 2 (August, 1995); (assessment of where we are regarding confession)
 - ii) *Études Canadiennes en Liturgie*, Raymond Vaillancourt, "La Pénitence dans l'existence contemporaine", Année, 1993, numéro 5, pp.7-98; (summary of the history of penance, stressing the theology of conversion; with a bibliography of French resources at the end;)
 - iii) *National Bulletin on the Liturgy*, Vol. 26, no. 135 (1993). "Reconciliation for a Broken World"; (general sociological overview)
 - iv) *National Bulletin on the Liturgy*, "The Reconciling Church", Ottawa, Vol. 29, no.145 (Summer, 1996), 67-113; (all seven articles are by James Dallen)
 - v) *National Bulletin on the Liturgy*, "The Rite of Penance: Trying It Again For the First Time", Vol. 34, no. 164 (Spring, 2001), 5-53; "The Rite of Penance: A Sharing of Pastoral Wisdom", Vol. 34, no. 165, 68-107; (update on the Canadian reality)
- d) Good References for Overview of Forgiveness and Sacramental Reconciliation:
- i) Dallen, James, and Favazza, Joseph, *Removing the Barriers: The Practice of Reconciliation*, Chicago, Liturgy Training Publications, 1991; (a light, easy-to-read and up-to-date presentation on key areas for today)
 - ii) Favazza, Joseph, *The Order of Penitents: Historical Roots and Pastoral Future*, Collegeville, Minn., Liturgical Press, 1988; (history of penance while looking at the specific possibility of the Order of Penitents for today)
 - iii) Fink, Peter, S.J., ed., *Alternative Futures for Christian Worship*, Collegeville, Minn., Liturgical Press, 1987; (presents ideas on penance)
 - iv) Gula, Richard, *To Walk Together Again: The Sacrament of Reconciliation*, NY, Paulist, 1984; (helpful use of "story" for Sacrament of Penance)
 - v) Haffner, Paul, "Penance", *The Sacramental Mystery*, Herefordshire, England, Gracewing, 1999; (brief summary of the historical development of sacrament of reconciliation)
 - vi) Hebblethwaite, Margaret & Donovan, Kevin, *The Theology of Penance*, Butler, Wis., Clergy Book Services, 1979; (a summary of the history of the Sacrament of Reconciliation;)
 - vii) Hellwig, Monica, *Sign of Reconciliation and Conversion – The Sacrament of Penance for Our Times*, Wilmington, Del., Michael Glazier, 1982; (overview with some insights)
 - viii) Luitjen, E., *Sacramental Forgiveness as a Gift of God: Thomas Aquinas on the Sacrament of Penance*, Peeters, 2003.
 - ix) Maloney, George, *Your Sins Are Forgiven You: Rediscovering the Sacrament of Reconciliation*, NY. Alba House, 1994; (popular, easy to read;)
 - x) Martos, Joseph, *Doors to the Sacred*, NY, Image, 1982, pp. 307-64; (summarizes the development of the Sacrament of Penance;)

- xi) Rahner, Karl, S.J., "The Status of the Sacrament of Reconciliation", *Theological Investigations*, London, Darton, Longman & Todd, 1963, Vol. II, 135-74;
 - xii) Rahner, Karl, S.J., "The Status of the Sacrament of Reconciliation", *Theological Investigations*, N.Y., Crossroads, 1992, Vol. XXIII, pp. 205-18;
 - xiii) Thévenot, Xavier, *Sin: A Christian View For Today*, Liguori, Mo., Liguori Pub., 1984; (a treatise on the sacrament)
 - xiv) Vorgrimler, Herbert, "The Sacrament of Reconciliation", in *Sacramental Theology*, Collegeville, Minn., Liturgical Press, 1992, pp. 200-25; (summary of development of Penance; treats the question of indulgences)
- e) Reflective Sources on Forgiveness and Reconciliation:
- i) Amedes, Lewis B., *The Art of Forgiving*, Ballantine, 1997;
 - ii) Augsburg, David W., *Helping People Forgive*, Westminster, John Knox Press, 1996;
 - iii) Bråkenhielm, Carl Reinhold, *Forgiveness*, Philadelphia, Fortress Press, 1993;
 - iv) Breault, William, S.J., *Trying to Forgive--Four Exercises That Encourage Forgiveness*, Notre Dame Press, Ave Maria Press, 1993;
 - v) Capps, Donald, *The Depleted Self: Sin in a Narcissistic Age*, Philadelphia, Fortress Press, 1993;
 - vi) Enright, E., ed., *Exploring Forgiveness*, University of Wisconsin Press, 1998; Fenn, Richard K., *The Secularization of Sin: An Investigation of the Daedalus Complex*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991;
 - vii) Fernandez, Domiciano, *The Father's Forgiveness: Rethinking the Sacrament of Reconciliation*, Collegeville, Minn., The Liturgical Press, 1992;
 - viii) Forest, Jim, *Confession – Doorway to Forgiveness*, Maryknoll, Orbis Books, 2002; (includes stories re. reconciliation and biblical aspects; exam. of consciences)
 - ix) Gestrich, Christoph, *The Return of Splendor in the World—The Christian Doctrine of Sin and Forgiveness*, Grand Rapids, Mi., Eerdmans, 1998; (restatement of the doctrine of sin with respect to modern philosophy and theology)
 - x) Hughes, Kathleen, Favazza, Joseph A., Ludecke, Chuck, *A Reconciliation Sourcebook*, Chicago, Liturgy Training Publications, 1997. (collection of prayers and exhortations on reconciliation)
 - xi) Kennedy, Robert, ed., *Reconciling Embrace: Foundations for the Future of Sacramental Reconciliation*, Liturgy Training Pub., 1998;
 - xii) McFadyen, Alistair, and Sarot, Marcel, eds., *Forgiveness and Truth: Explorations in Contemporary Theology*, Edinburgh, T. & T. Clark, 2001.
 - xiii) Meninger, William A., *Process of Forgiveness*, NY, Continuum, 1997; Monbourquette, John, *How to Forgive – A Step-by-Step Guide*, Ottawa, Novalis, 2000; (a practical "how to" move toward forgiveness)
 - xiv) Mueller, Joan, *Is Forgiveness Possible?*, Collegeville, Minn., Liturgical Press, 1998; Perrin, David B., *The Sacrament of Reconciliation: An Existential Approach*, E. Mellen Press, 1998.
 - xv) Peters, Ted, *Sin: Radical Evil in Soul and Society*, Grand Rapids, Mi., Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1994;
 - xvi) Portmann, John, *A History of Sin – It's Evolution to Today and Beyond*, Lanham, Md., Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2007 (an update on Meninger's earlier book *Whatever Happened to Sin?* (1973)
 - xvii) Prieur, Michael, S.T.D., *The Sacrament of Reconciliation Today*, Bethlehem, Pa., Catechetical Communications, 1974; (a summary in Part V of church development addresses the age of first confession)
 - xviii) -----, *Reconciliation: A User's Manual*, Ottawa, Novalis, 2001; (a practical handbook with examinations of conscience, biblical readings, etc.)
 - xix) Rey-Mermet, Théodule, C.Ss.R., *Moral Choices—The Moral Theology of Saint Alphonsus Liguori*, Liguori, Mo., Liguori Press, 1998; (deals with how St. Alphonsus worked out his system of probabilism to find a mean between the rigorism and laxism of his day;
 - xx) Scanlan, Michael, *The Power in Penance: Confession and the Holy Spirit*, Notre Dame, IN, Ave Maria, 1972.

- xxi) Schell, David W., ill. by Alley, R.W., *Forgiveness Therapy*, Abbey Press, 1993; Stafford, William S., *Disordered Loves: Healing the Seven Deadly Sins*, Cowley Publications, 1994;
 - xxii) Theological-Historical Commission for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, *God, the Father of Mercy, (Official Catechetical Text in Preparation for the Year 2000)*, N.Y., Crossroad, 1998; (reflection on the meaning of the Fatherhood of God, reconciliation, Mary's role)
 - xxiii) Walsh, Fr. Christopher, *Untapped Power of the Sacrament of Penance*, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2005.
 - xxiv) Weinandy, Thomas G., *The Sacrament of Mercy: A Spiritual and Practical Guide to Confession*, Pauline Books, 1997;
 - xxv) Woodgate, Michael, *A Priest's Guide to Hearing Confessions*, London, Catholic Truth Society, 2008.
 - xxvi) Woods, Walter J., *Walking With Faith—New Perspectives on the Sources and Shaping of Catholic Moral Life*, Collegeville, Minn., Liturgical Press, 1998; (deals with the sacrament of penance in context of Church History)
 - xxvii) Worthington, Everett L., Jr., ed., *Dimensions of Forgiveness – Psychological Research & Theological Perspectives*, Philadelphia, Templeton Foundation Press, 1998; (background material from mostly non-Catholic sources to understand the current phenomenon of seeking forgiveness.)
- f) Some Additional Resources
- i) Glavich, Mary Kathleen, *The gift of Anointing of the Sick: A preparation Guide for the Sacrament*, Acta Publications, 2006.
 - ii) Farren, Paul, *Confession: Looking into the eyes of God*, Dublin, The Columbia Press, 2013.
 - iii) Huffstetler, Joel W., *Boundless Love: The Parable of the Prodigal Son and Reconciliation*, N.Y., University of America Press, 2008, 77pp.
 - iv) Huston, Paula, *Forgiveness: Following Jesus into Biblical Loving*, Paraclete Press, 2009.
 - v) Kidder, Annemarie S., *Making Confession, Hearing Confession – A History of the Cure of Souls*, Collegeville, Mi., Liturgical Press, 2010; (an in-depth treatment of how forms of confession are present in Christian denominations)
 - vi) Kendzia, Mary Carol, *Catholic Update Guide to Confession*, Cincinnati, Ohio, St. Anthony Press, 2011.
- g) The Sacrament of the Sick
- i) John Paul II, Apostolic Letter "Salvifici Doloris", Rome 1984. (The Holy Father treats the meaning of human suffering).
 - ii) Kasza, John C., *Understanding Sacramental Healing, Anointing and Viaticum*, Chicago/Mundelein, Illinois, Hillenbrandbooks, 2007; (See pp. 234-244 for extensive bibliography)
 - iii) Keller, Paul Jerome, O.P., *101 Questions and Answers on the Sacraments of Healing: Penance and the Anointing of the Sick*, N.Y./Mahweh, N.J., Paulist, 2010; (a little catechism on these two sacraments;)
 - iv) Larson-Miller, Lizette, *The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick*, Collegeville, Minn., The Liturgical Press, 2005.