

Module Title:	Christian Spirituality and Christ in the Writings of Francis
Module Code:	428 FCSF
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	20
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 200 hours
Teaching Hours:	40 hours
Academic Responsibility:	Séamus Mulholland OFM, Ph.D.

Module Aims:

To trace Christian spirituality through the ages and open the student to the various epochs of society and the contribution made by Christianity to each era To indicate to the student the wealth of spirituality in the Christian tradition

To enable the student to place the spiritual vision of Francis of Assisi within the context of the whole Christian tradition by showing how the vision of Francis is interpreted in the Franciscan Intellectual and Spiritual tradition. This module will develop the student's ability to understand the nature of the Christology of St. Francis and the student's critical reflection on a specifically Franciscan understanding of Jesus Christ. To provide the knowledge necessary for an awareness of the important contribution of St. Francis' understanding of Jesus Christ to Christian spirituality today, especially in regards to the questions by which Franciscan Christology makes its voice and its values known in the Church and contemporary world.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be expected to

1. have acquired a knowledge and understanding of the development of Christian spirituality and its primary features
2. have developed the ability to comprehend, analyse, interpret and evaluate the contribution made to Church and society by Christian spirituality
3. have developed the skill of synthesising the knowledge gained from the study of the role and place of St. Francis of Assisi in Christian spiritual tradition into judgment about the nature and relevance of Franciscanism in the Christian tradition today.
4. have acquired a knowledge and understanding of the nature of St. Francis' understanding of Jesus Christ.
5. be able to perceive the relevance and importance of St. Francis vision of Christ in his

6. writings to the Franciscan Movement, Christian Spirituality, Church and world

Indicative Module Content:

Beginning with its Jewish origins, the module will trace their growth and development of Christian spirituality from the early Church until the present day. The influence of the Church on society and society on the Church will also be considered. The various types of Christian spirituality [New Testament, Patristic, Medieval, Post Reformation and Modern] will also be considered. Some attention is paid to the contribution made to Christian spirituality by the Platonic and Neoplatonic and Augustinian philosophical tradition which the Franciscan intellectual and spiritual tradition firmly roots itself especially through the theology and spirituality of Bonaventure and Duns Scotus. Some attention is paid to the apostolic poverty reform movements on the eve of St. Francis, and the significance of the Franciscan contribution to both Church and society will also be examined. The module concludes with an examination of some of the key features of the Franciscan spiritual tradition today. This module seeks to explore how St. Francis of Assisi understood and experienced the person of Jesus Christ in his life as it is expressed in his vernacular Christology. Texts to be examined include the *Letter to the Whole Order*, the *First and Second Letters to the Faithful*, the *Admonitions*, especially *Admonition 1*, and Stanza 2 of the *Canticle of Sir Brother Sun* inter al. The module focuses on how St. Francis' understanding of Christ in the *imitatio Christi* and its Trinitarian base can be used to present a specifically Franciscan Christology today that is both based on sound theology and expressive of a particular Christian and Franciscan spirituality of conversion and discipleship.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Students will be taught through lectures, tutorials and reading of assigned texts.

Assessment:

This module will be assessed through two 2,500 word essays. Students will have the option of several essay topics from which to choose.

Illustrative Bibliography

Alister E. McGrath (1999) *Christian Spirituality: An Introduction* Cambridge, MA:
Blackwell

Armstrong, R.J., et al. (1999–2001)	<i>Francis of Assisi: Early Documents;</i> A three volume series: V. I <i>The Saint;</i> V. II <i>The Founder;</i> V. III <i>The Prophet.</i>	New City Press
Boff, L. (1997)	<i>Cry of the Earth: Cry of the Poor</i>	Orbis Books
Cunningham, Lawrence Eerdmans (2004)	<i>Francis of Assisi: Performing the Gospel Life</i>	Wm. B.
Dalarun, J. (2002)	<i>The Misadventure of Francis of Assisi</i>	The Franciscan Institute
Doyle E., OFM (2005)	My Heart's Quest	Franciscan International Study Centre
Doyle E., OFM (2001)	<i>St. Francis and the Song of Brotherhood Ed. 2</i>	St. Pauls

Journals

Document of the General Pentecost Chapter of the Order of Friars Minor (2009)	<i>Bearers of the Gift of the Gospel</i>	Assisi,
Haase, Albert O.F.M (2010)	<i>Instruments of Christ: Reflections on the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi</i>	St. Anthony Messenger Press