

Module Title:	Introduction to the Sacraments and Liturgy
Module Code:	411 TISA
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	20 Credits
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 200 hours
Teaching Hours:	40 Hours
Academic Responsibility:	David Blowey OFM Conv, STD

Module Aims:

To provide an overview of liturgy in its human, spiritual, theological and pastoral contexts, and its central place in the life of the Church. To supply a foundation for study of subsequent modules in theology and practice of the sacraments. To introduce the students to the major tenets of both the modern and traditional notions of sacramental theology; and to develop the students' knowledge and understanding of the philosophical/theological principles underlying sacramental theology. To enable students to reflect critically on the notion of sacramentology in general, and more specifically in view of the development of the seven Catholic-Christian Sacraments; and to empower the students towards more enriching experiences of biblical, liturgical prayer.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the module students should be able to:

1. Understand the broad thematic development of basic Christological and Trinitarian doctrines as articulated by the councils of Nicea and Chalcedon.
2. Compare and contrast differing theologies and spiritualities characteristic of the Greek and Latin world views in ancient Christianity.
3. Articulate the synthetic nature of Greek philosophical suppositions, particularly Neo-Platonism, with the early development of Christian theology.
4. Relate fundamental social themes; ie. the experience of martyrdom, the political realities of the Greco-Roman world, the role of women etc. to the development of early Christian theology and spirituality.
5. Relate to the development of Christian theology as a *process* and not a static *event*.

Indicative Module Content:

In the first part of the module the notion of 'sacrament' in salvation and its gradual definition in the history of the Church is discussed, in particular the notion of Mystery, Symbolic Thinking, and the modern views in Sacramentology that allow us to consider Christ, the Church and the Word as Sacraments inclusive of-

1. The seven basic sacramental rites as expressions of the sacramental action of Christ in, and through, the Church: historical survey of the development of the present 'seven sacraments' and accompanying theology, with particular attention to sacraments in the thought of the Early Church; the scholastics; the church of the Council of Trent; developments before and after the Second Vatican Council.
2. Aspects of contemporary thought will be explored, in particular the idea of the Church as sacrament and Jesus Christ as 'primordial sacrament', and how these affected the rites as they were reformed after the Second Vatican Council; the sacraments as 'encounter with

- Jesus Christ' and a sharing in his life and work.
3. Their manner of operation and the meaning of *ex opere operato* in systematic theology.
 4. A presentation of the Thomistic/Tridentine doctrine on sacramental form and effects will allow us to discuss the basic anthropological and theological insights for living the sacraments and the Christian life (Sacramental grace).
 5. The use of 'sacramental' symbolism in selected ritual traditions (Jewish, Christian, Muslim).

In the second part of the module students will be introduced to human, spiritual, theological, ecclesial and pastoral aspects of the Church's liturgy, including the meaning of ritual practice and symbolic language. They will consider the theology of liturgy as the celebration of the Paschal Mystery and examine practical aspects of liturgical practice (for example the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, liturgical space or inculturation). The module will also include the development of seasons and feasts, the Lectionary and the use of Scripture and examine current trends in liturgy. Students, working in groups, apply their learning to devise a liturgy.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The basic format of presentation will be four weekly lectures systematically treating the subject matter as described in the Indicative Module Content. Students are given specific weekly reading assignments as well as directed toward extra-curricular reading proposed by the instructor. Research interests are quickly identified and tutorial sessions, depending on individual needs of the students, arranged for clarification and direction, inclusive of suggested extra-curricular reading. Within the classroom context of lectures, active participation of students in terms of questions and, especially, discussion is strongly encouraged as a primary way of developing analytical skills, critical thinking, and clarity of expression. The liturgy devised by students in groups should involve the use of a variety of communication techniques. It is presented to the class for peer evaluation and feedback.

Assessment:

The module will be assessed by two written essays of not less than 2,500 words.

Indicative Essay Titles:

1. Describe how cultural, pastoral, canonical and liturgical factors have influenced the development of sacramental theology during the history of the church.
2. "The purpose of the church is to make present God's saving power in human history." Explain how the documents issued by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council and the subsequent revision of sacramental rites understood and expressed this.
3. Analyse and compare the notions of the spirituality of liturgical space in the Catholic Christian environment with that of another religious tradition.

Illustrative Bibliography

Chauvet, Louis-Marie (2001)	<i>The Sacraments: The Word of God at the Mercy of the Body.</i>	Liturgical Press.
Chupungco, Ansar J., OSB (2000)	<i>Sacraments and Sacramentals (Handbook for Liturgical Studies, vol. IV).</i>	Liturgical Press.
(1998)	<i>Fundamental Liturgy: Handbook for Liturgical Studies Volume II;</i> Pueblo	The Liturgical Press.

Dean, Stephen (ed.), (1993) *Celebration: the Liturgy Handbook*.

Hughes, Kathleen (1999) *Saying Amen! A Mystagogy of Sacrament*. Liturgy Training Pubs.

Leijssen, Lambert J. (2006) *With the Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit: A Postmodern Look at the Sacraments*. Paulist Press.

Stasiak, K. (2001) *Sacramental Theology: Means of Grace, Ways of Life*. Loyola University Press.

Other:

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium) in the Liturgy Documents (1991)
volume 1: A Parish Resource Liturgy Training Pubs.