MEMORANDUM

TO: Christology Instructors
FROM: Nelsa Elías
SUBJECT: Comments Regarding Course
DATE: Spring

The Pastoral Institute is constantly trying to improve the Lay Ministry Program and therefore changes to the program, course content, and required readings may occur from semester to semester. For this reason, I ask that you read this memorandum and the course outline carefully.

- Instructors will find the course outline at the end of this document and most Participants’ reading materials on the Pastoral Institute Online Classroom. We ask that you distribute to the participants any materials that we were unable to post online on the first day of class. (The PI will give you copies of these, as well as any textbooks for the course.)

- As you may know the PI Online Classroom web address has changed and the log in process has been simplified. As instructors, you will have access to the Instructors’ page for your materials and the Participants’ page of the Class year that you are teaching in order to access the participant’s materials. Please note that you will have to log in to the Participants’ page with a different password. These passwords are found in the memo we gave you with the package containing the Participant’s General Assessment and other documents.

- Participants will be asked to download articles (when applicable) from the Pastoral Institute Online Classroom. Although the participants know that they are responsible for downloading the articles, we depend on you to remind the participants to do so at the beginning of the course and as you give them the reading assignments. Only copies of articles not available electronically, if applicable, and the textbook will be distributed by the instructor on the first day of class, as noted above.

- It is important that participants in the lay formation program have every opportunity to become acquainted with the course goals, as well as what they are expected to have learned by the completion of the course. We ask you to review the course purpose and the objectives of the participants’ education/formation experience at the first session of the course.

- The enclosure lists the required reading (English and Spanish) and the course outline indicates the material that is to be covered. Please feel free to cover the topics and assign the reading from Scripture (including the introductory material in the Bible), the text and articles, in the order that you find most comfortable; however all topics outlined should be covered.
• **Integration Paper**: *The Pastoral Institute requires that the instructors only offer the participants a choice from the questions/topics found at the end of the course outline.* Feel free to choose the questions that you feel are more relevant from this list. *This will help us ensure that the theological and intellectual goals of the Pastoral Institute are met.* The integration paper is not meant to be solely a report or reflection paper.

• When grading integration papers, please follow the Pastoral Institute guidelines and grading conventions. If necessary, a participant should revise their paper in order to meet the criteria for a “Satisfactory” grade. (Refer to Spring 2013 Instructor Handbook to be distributed at the January 28 Instructor’s meeting.)

• The supplemental reading and resource list for participants, if any, will be posted on the PI Online Classroom.

• Please also refer to and follow the directions included in the memo found in your materials package.

Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the Pastoral Institute! Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the course material or any aspects of the Lay Ministry Program.

Enclosures:

Updated Dec. 2012
Pastoral Institute ♦ Diocese of Brooklyn
Lay Ministry Program

Course Title: Christology – The Study of Jesus, True God and True Man

Course Length:
14 hours

Purpose:
This course will enable and encourage participants to understand what (and how) Catholics have come to believe and express of Jesus the Christ in light of Christian faith and teaching over the centuries.

Objectives:

1. To present two complementary approaches to Christology – Christology from above and from below.
2. To present Catholic Christian sources for our belief in Jesus the Christ.
3. To study and take meaning for ourselves from Jesus’ life, ministry and resurrection from the dead.
4. To present the teaching and meaning of redemption and salvation through Jesus the Christ.
5. To present the classic dogma of Jesus Christ – true God and true man – as defined by the Councils of Nicaea and Chalcedon.
6. To highlight our belief in Jesus as expressed in the Creed.
7. To present contemporary issues in Christology, particularly in professing Jesus as universal savior in a culturally diverse Church and a pluralistic world.

Participant Required Reading (Includes readings for the English and for the Spanish tracks):


Catechism of the Catholic Church. Part One, Section Two, Chapter Two: I Believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God. (Available in English and Spanish)

Dei Verbum: Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. (Available in English and Spanish)


Glossary of Terms (adapted from Gerald O’Collins, Introducing Catholic Theology: Interpreting Jesus). (Available in English and Spanish)


Pope John Paul II. La Virgen María, modelo de la santidad de la Iglesia http://es.catholic.net/mariologiatodoacercademaria/596/1533/articulo.php?id=6729

**Recommended Additional Reading:**


**Instructor’s Background Reading** (Both English and Spanish track instructors)


Dei Verbum: Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. (Available in English and Spanish)


*Nostra Aetate: The Declaration on the Church’s Relations with Non-Christian Religions* (Available in English and Spanish)

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Course Outline

Part I: Introduction and Definitions

- Review of course purpose and objectives
- Introduction of glossary
- What is “Christology”?
- Two complementary approaches to Christology
  - Christology “from above”
  - Christology “from below”
- Why study Jesus in his humanity and divinity?
  - To respond to the questions: “who is Christ in himself?” and “who is Christ for me?”
  - To probe the relationship between our understanding of Christ and our understanding of Church (Christology and Ecclesiology)
  - To provide a basis for Christian dialogue with other religions
- Participant readings
  - Christology: True God, True Man. (Cristología: Verdadero Dios, verdadero hombre), Introduction, chapters 1 and 2
  - Contemporary Christology: Getting One’s Bearings

Part II: What do we know and believe about Jesus?

- Selected Catholic Christian sources for our belief about Jesus
  - New Testament (including three levels of gospel development)
  - Relevant sections of Dei Verbum, Vatican Council II
  - Catechism of the Catholic Church
  - Papal/magisterial teachings
  - The works of theologians
- Jesus’ life and ministry
  - Baptism
  - Temptations
• Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
• Healing ministry
• Calling disciples
• Passion and death on the cross

• Jesus’ resurrection from the dead
  o Jesus’ resurrection as the core of Christian faith
  o Christology and Trinitarian meaning of Jesus’ resurrection
  o What the resurrection means “for us”

• Participant Readings
  o *Dei Verbum: Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, especially #2, #4, #6, #9, #18, #19
  o *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Part One, Section Two, Chapter Two, Articles 2 - 7

Part III: Redemption and Salvation Through Jesus Christ: Implications for a Culturally Diverse Church and a Pluralistic World

• Jesus as universal savior
• The meaning of salvation in Jesus Christ today
• The experience of salvation in Jesus Christ today

• Participant Readings
  o *Christology: True God, True Man. (Cristología: Verdadero Dios, verdadero hombre)*, chapter 4

Part IV: Classical Dogma: Jesus Christ as True God and True Man

• The Council of Nicaea (325 C.E.)
  o Jesus is “true God begotten not made, one in being (homoousios) with the Father.”

• The Council of Chalcedon (451 C.E.)
  o “Our Lord Jesus Christ at once complete in divinity and complete in humanity, truly God and truly man…”

• Participant readings
Part V: Belief in Jesus

- Born of the virgin Mary
- Like us in all things…
- Except sin
- Participant Readings

- ¿Quién es Jesús? (Catholic Update.) La Virgen María, Modelo De La Santidad De La Iglesia; Mary. Of History (Catholic Update.)

Part VI: Contemporary Concerns in Christology: Vatican II and Beyond

- Nostra Aetate: The Declaration on the Church’s Relations with Non Christian Religions, Vatican II
- Affirming Christ as Universal Savior
- Participant Readings

- Christology: True God, True Man. (Cristologia: Verdadero Dios, Verdadero Hombre), chapter 5, 6, 7.
Questions for Integration Paper
(Instructors: Please choose from among these questions/themes ONLY.)

Participants are asked to answer one from among three or four of the questions below. Care should be taken to answer every part of the question chosen.

1. Answer Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?” Indicate one or two core theological teachings/beliefs that best express your current understanding of Jesus Christ. Indicate how this has changed or developed over the course of your life. Do you expect that your relationship with Jesus Christ might continue to evolve? If so, how might that happen? If not, why not? How does the way you see your relationship with Jesus impact your present or future ministry? Please answer each part of this question.

2. Prepare a talk or presentation on any aspect of this course for a group with which you work or to whom you minister in your Parish. In your talk or presentation:
   A. Briefly describe your group including the ages, genders and ethnicities of the participants.
   B. Fully and clearly explain your topic using material and examples from this course or from your own personal reading.
   C. Indicate how this particular aspect could be helpful to the people with whom you work or to whom you minister.

3. Discuss in detail the First Ecumenical Council (Nicaea) and the fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon). For each: a) state the issue of concern, b) both sides of the debate and c) the critical turning point in the debate. If you were to put the developments in “plain English” how would they read?

4. Although all four Gospels tell the story of Jesus’ life, each provides a somewhat different portrait of Jesus. Choose one of the Gospels, select one key idea that might answer the questions: “Who is Jesus?” and “What was He sent to do?” Discuss how this idea is related to your current or future ministry.

5. Explain some of the reasons why the death and resurrection of Jesus was an important event for early Christians and why it is the central teaching of the Church in light of our Christian faith. Explain why this understanding would be important to those to whom you minister or plan to minister.
Preguntas/Temas para el Trabajo de Integración
(Instructor: Por favor use SOLO estas preguntas.)

Los participantes deberán responder a **una** de entre tres o cuatro de las siguientes preguntas. Se debe tener cuidado para responder a **todas** las partes de la pregunta elegida.

1. Conteste la pregunta que Jesús le hizo a los apóstoles: “¿Quién dice la gente que soy yo?” Indique una o dos enseñanzas/creencias teológicas fundamentales que mejor expresan su comprensión actual de Jesucristo después de estudiar este curso. Indique cómo ha cambiado o desarrollado a lo largo de su vida. ¿Espera usted que su relación con Jesucristo pueda seguir evolucionando? Si es así, ¿cómo podría suceder eso? Si no, ¿por qué no? ¿Cree que su comprensión de quien es Jesús puede impactar a su ministerio? ¿De qué manera? Por favor, responda a cada parte de esta pregunta.

2. Prepare una charla o una presentación sobre cualquier aspecto de este curso para un grupo en su parroquia. En su charla o presentación…:
   A. Describa brevemente al grupo (incluya las edades, y géneros de los participantes)
   B. Explique con claridad el tema escogido utilizando ejemplos y materiales de este curso y de su lectura personal.
   C. Indique cómo este aspecto podría ser útil para las personas con las que trabaja en la iglesia.

3. Analice en detalle el primer Concilio Ecuménico (Nicea) y el cuarto Concilio Ecuménico (Calcedonia). Para cada uno: a) exponga la cuestión discutida, b) explique ambos lados del debate y c) describa el momento crítico en el debate. Explique los acontecimientos en palabras “sencillas” para que todos puedan entender.

4. Aunque los cuatro evangelios cuentan la historia de la vida de Jesú, cada uno ofrece un retrato diferente de Jesús. Elija uno de los Evangelios, seleccione una idea clave que podría responder a las preguntas: "¿Quién es Jesús?" y "¿Por qué fue enviado?" Explique cómo se relaciona esta idea con su ministerio actual o con el que se preparará.

5. Explique algunas de las razones por las cuales la muerte y resurrección de Jesús fue un acontecimiento importante para los primeros cristianos y por qué es la enseñanza central de la Iglesia a la luz de nuestra fe cristiana. Explique por qué este conocimiento es importante para aquellos a quien usted ministra.
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Supplementary Reading and Resources


Schillebeeckx, Edward. *Christ: The Experience of Jesus as Lord*.


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