

# THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS ON-LINE

SPRING SEMESTER-09  
FR. RANDY SOTO  
KENRICK SEMINARY  
SAINT LOUIS, MO

## I. OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

In order to facilitate the study of the Theology of the Priesthood in the Letter to the Hebrews, our course has been structured in four modules. The first two modules are geared to illuminate the *Sitz im Leben* in which the New Testament Priesthood springs forth. The third module is intended to help the students meditate via *Lectio Divina* the contents of the Letter to the Hebrews. Finally, the fourth module seeks to establish the relationship between the Priesthood of Jesus Christ and the Priesthood in the Catholic Church.

**Module A:** At the end of this module, students will be able to comprehend that priesthood is an essential component of every religion.

*Who:* All Students

*What:* Improve knowledge on priesthood by association

*How:* Through readings, discussions and reflections, and an activity

*Objective:* *The students will improve their knowledge on priesthood through the method of association between different religions, a series of discussions, reflections and an activity based on the book by Leopold Sabourin, Priesthood: A Comparative Study, (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1973) pp 1-97.*

**Module B:** The students will discern the prefigured *Types tu,poj* of priesthood in the Old Testament (OT).

*Who:* All students

*What:* Identify and explain the different *Orders ta,xewj* of priesthood in the OT.

*How:* Through readings, discussions and reflections, and a project

*Objective:* *Students will identify and explain the different orders of priesthood in the OT through , a series of discussions, reflections and an activity based on:*

Merlin Rehm, "Levites and Priests" in *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 4 (New York: Doubleday, 1992) 297-310.

**Module C:** At the end of this module, students will have contemplated the meaning of the *Being ESSE* and the *Doing AGERE* of Jesus' Priesthood, so that it would assist them in their integral formation for the Order of Priesthood.

<p>Who: All Students</p> <p>What: Contemplate the meaning of the <i>Being</i> and the <i>Doing</i> of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>How: Through discussions and active observation</p> <p>Objective: <i>The students will expand their self-awareness of what it means to be a priest in the manner of Jesus Christ, through a series of discussions and active observations based on:</i></p> <p>a) <i>the book by Cardinal Vanhoye, Structure and Message of the Epistle to the Hebrews (Rome: PIB, 1989);</i></p> <p>b) <i>the book by Donald Hagner, Encountering the Book of Hebrews (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002)</i></p>
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**Module D:** At the end of this module, students will have expanded their knowledge of the Theology of the Priesthood and its *Sacramentality musth,ria* in the life of the Catholic Church.

<p>Who: All Students</p> <p>What: Expand knowledge of the Theology of the Priesthood and its sacramental expressions at the Sacrament of Baptism and Holy Orders.</p> <p>How: Through a guided Lectio of the Letter to the Hebrews, and Post-Conciliar Documents, and through the elaboration of a paper.</p> <p>Objective: <i>The students will identify and explain the qualities of the ministerial priesthood as expressed in the Magisterial Documents of the Post Vatican II era:</i></p> <p><i>Lumen Gentium §§ 10,28,33,41: Vatican II, 11/ 21/1964</i></p> <p><i>Presbyterorum Ordinis: Vatican II, 07/12/1965</i></p> <p><i>Directory for the Ministry and Life of Priests: Congregation for Clergy 31/01/1994</i></p> <p><i>Priest Pastor-Leader of the Parish Community: Congregation for Clergy 18/10/2002</i></p>
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## II. CLASSROOM PROCEDURE, ATTENDANCE, AND GRADING

A. The instructor will guide the students in their reading assignments and will monitor the series of postings which the students are required to do during the semester with the aid of Blackboard. Preparation, attendance, and active participation are expected for every class session, especially during the teleconferences at the end of each month. Absence for whatever reason from more than two sessions may result in a lower grade for the course.

B. Grades are based both on teleconference participation, and the postings for our weekly discussions (50%); Exam on Cardinal Vanhoye's book on the Structure and Message of the Epistle to the Hebrews (20%), *the Archpriest Web-project* (30%) and. If all course works is not completed by the end of the semester, a "C" will be the highest grade possible.

C. *The Archpriest Web-project* consists of developing a Web page in which the whole class will contribute to explain this letter to the Hebrews on line to people who would like to benefit from our study. Depending on the number of students taking the class; each student is responsible for one or more chapters of Hebrews. The whole class will participate in creating an online verse-by-verse commentary of this important letter of the NT.

## III. SCHEDULE

MODULES	WEEKS	CONTENT	DATES
MODULE A	Week 1	Video Conference: Introduction to Course: Tutorial on Blackboard Materials and Syllabus	01/24
	Week 2	<b>PRIESTHOOD IN OTHER RELIGIONS</b> Reading of Leopold Sabourin, <i>Priesthood: A Comparative Study</i> , (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1973) pp 1-97.	01/31
	Week 3	Post your reaction to the reading of Leopold Sabourin, <i>Priesthood: A Comparative Study</i> , (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1973) pp 1-97.	02/07

<b>MODULE B</b>	Week 4	<b>OT PRIESTHOOD</b> Reading of: Merlin Rehm, "Levites and Priests" in <i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> , 4 (New York: Doubleday, 1992) 297-310.	02/14
	Week 5	Video Conference on the reading of Merlin Rehm, "Levites and Priests" in <i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> , 4 (New York: Doubleday, 1992) 297-310.	02/21
<b>MODULE C</b>	Week 6	<b>NT PRIESTHOOD: HEBREWS</b> Begin reading the book: <i>Structure and Message of the Epistle to the Hebrews</i> by Cardinal Vanhoye	02/28
	Week 7	On-line exam on book: <i>Structure and Message of the Epistle to the Hebrews</i> by Cardinal Vanhoye	03/07
	Week 8	Reading of Donald Hagner, <i>Encountering the Book of Hebrews</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002) 19-62; Posting of study questions on p 37, 51, 61.	03/14
	Week 9	Reading of Donald Hagner, <i>Encountering the Book of Hebrews</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002) 63-87; Video Conference on study questions on pp 68, 79, 87.	03/21
	Week 10	Reading of Donald Hagner, <i>Encountering the Book of Hebrews</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002) 89-116; Posting of study questions on pp 94, 106, 116.	03/28
	Week 11	Reading of Donald Hagner, <i>Encountering the Book of Hebrews</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002) 117-140; Posting of study questions on pp 126, 132, 139.	04/04

		<b>HOLY WEEK</b>	<b>April 5-12</b>
	Week 12	Reading of Donald Hagner, <i>Encountering the Book of Hebrews</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002) 141-167; Video Conference on study questions on pp 155, 166.	04/18
	Week 13	Reading of Donald Hagner, <i>Encountering the Book of Hebrews</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002) 169-195; Posting of study questions on pp 176, 189.	04/25
<b>MODULE D</b>	Week 14	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE CHURCH</b></p> Post your reaction to the readings of : Lumen Gentium §§ 10,28,33,41 Presbyterorum Ordinis §§ 2-6. Directory of Priestly Ministry Presentation Priest Pastor-Leader of the Parish Community	05/02
	Week 15	Class assignment: Archpriest Web project due	05/06

#### IV. Required Readings

1. Sabourin, Leopold. *Priesthood: A Comparative Study* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1973) pp 1-97.  
The Library should have this book
2. Rehm, Merlin. "Levites and Priests" in *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 4 (New York: Doubleday, 1992) 297-310. The Library should have this Encyclopedia
3. Vanhoye, Albert, *Structure and Message of the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Rome: PIB, 1989).  
Order through Loyola Press in Chicago, they distribute the publications of the PIB in the US.
4. Hagner, Donald, *Encountering the Book of Hebrews* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002). Order through Amazon.com or directly through the publisher.
5. Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium* §§ 10,28,33,41. On-line, see Vatican Website.

6. Vatican II, *Presbyterorum Ordinis* §§ 2-9. On-line, see Vatican Website.
7. Congregation for Clergy, *Directory for the Ministry and Life of Priests*, 31/01/1994. On-line, see Vatican Website
8. Congregation for Clergy, *Priest Pastor-Leader of the Parish Community*, 18/10/2002. On-line, see Vatican Website

## V. ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Vanhoye, A., *Homilie für haltbedürftige Christen. Struktur und Botschaft des Hebräerbriefes* (Schlüssel zur Bibel; Regensburg: Pustet, 1981).
- Vanhoye, A., *Le message de l'épître aux Hébreux* (CEv 19; Paris: Cerf, 1977).

### B. Commentaries

- Aquinas, T., *Super Epistulam ad Hebraeos Lectura* (Torino: Marietti, 1950); tr. Engl. *Commentary on the epistle to the Hebrews* (South Bend: St. Augustine's Press, 2006).
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- Braun, H., *An die Hebräer* (HNT 14; Tübingen: Mohr, 1984).

- Bruce, F. F., *The Epistle to the Hebrews* (NICNT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991).\*
- Buchanan, G. W., *To the Hebrews* (AncB 36; Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1981).
- Casalini, N., *Agli Ebrei* (SBFLA 34; Jerusalem: Franciscan Press, 1992).\*
- Delitzsch, F., *Kommentar zum Hebräerbrief* (Leipzig: Dörffling und Franke, 1857; Gießen – Basel: Brunnen, 1989); tr. ingl. *Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Clark's Foreign Theological Library 20, 25; Edinburgh: Clark, 1868, 1870).
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- Hagner, D. A., *Hebrews* (NIBC 14; Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1990).
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- Johnson, Luke Timothy, *Hebrews* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006).
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- Marcheselli-Casale, C., *Lettera agli Ebrei. Nuova versione, introduzione e commento* (I libri biblici. Nuovo Testamento 16; Milano: Paoline, 2005).

- März, C.-P., *Hebräerbrief* (NEB.NT 16; Würzburg: Echter, 1990).
- Médebielle, R.P., *Épître aux Hébreux* (Paris: Letouzey at Ané, Éditeurs, 1951).
- Michel, O., *Der Brief an die Hebräer* (KEK 13; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, <sup>14</sup>1984).
- Mitchell, Alan C., *Hebrews* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2007).
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