THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION  
TRS 641A  

Fall 2012  
Dominic E. Serra  
Tues and Thurs 2:10 - 3:25  
Caldwell 424  
Office hours: by appointment and Tues. 12:30-1:30  
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SYLLABUS

The purpose of this course:  
This course will examine the liturgies of Christian initiation as they manifest themselves in various parts of the world throughout history. Attention will be paid to the theological and cultural factors contributing to the development of these liturgies in the major ritual families. This study will prepare students to distill from the rites and euchological texts the theological meaning of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist as initiatory rites.

General outcomes of this course:  
1. Students will gain an understanding of the broad scope of the Church's initiatory practice and an awareness of the complex evolution of its rites and euchological texts and of their theological implications.

2. Students will develop a theological understanding of the sacraments of initiation based on the scriptural, historical, magisterial, and contemporary evidence arrived at by applying the methods of liturgical research and they will be able to articulate the relationship of this theological understanding to current liturgical practice.

The structure of this course:  
The course will consist of lectures and will involve the students in discussions based on the assigned readings.

Expectations:  
1. It is expected that students will have read assigned materials critically so as to be able to raise questions and to offer informed opinions about their content during class discussions.

2. It is expected that each student will complete the following written assignments:

A. The first will be a short research paper written on a topic related to one or more of the historical sources discussed in the course. Each student will select a particular issue, ritual unit, euchological text, or combination of these in a specific historical document or source. The paper will present the current state of research on the topic and offer some theological observations about the contribution made therein to the theology of Christian Initiation. The purpose of this assignment is to assist in some measure the development of outcome number two above. (10 pages (no more, fewer), worth 40% of the final grade – due November 1).
All CUA students should be able to use Latin sources and are expected to supply footnotes and a bibliography following Turabian’s 7th edition. A general thesis description and a bibliography must be approved for each student by September 13. N.B. – STL and Doctoral students will write 25 pages and use whatever language abilities they may have. MA students who wish this paper to be counted as one of the two examples of research in their file will do likewise. These extended papers will be worth 50% of the final grade and will be due on November 20.

B. The second assignment is a shorter (non-research) paper on a particular element in the current initiation rites of the student’s Church. The paper will demonstrate what the course’s historical/theological study has contributed to the student’s understanding of the chosen element. (4 pages, worth 10% of final grade – due date Dec. 6). Students writing a 25-page research paper will not do this paper.

CUA academic honesty policy applies to all assignments. Please consult the website.

3. Each student’s knowledge of the course content will be examined during final exam week. (50%)

**Essential Bibliography**

**Required:**

**Recommended:**
COURSE OUTLINE

Liturgical Studies: Review of Sources and Method.

I. Historical Development of Classical Shape of Initiation.

1. The New Testament

2. Pre-Nicene Sources in East and West:

3. Post-Nicene Sources:
   A. Syria:
      2. The Apostolic Constitutions. The Homilies of Narsai.
   B. Egypt: Serapion.
   C. The West:  1. Africa - Augustine and Carthage
                 2. Milan - Ambrose
                 3. The Ambrosian Rite
                 4. Spain and Gaul.
   D. Lent and the Catechumenate.
   E. The West: Rome and Gallo-Roman Synthesis: The Roman Rite.
                 John the Deacon, Sacramentarium Gelasianum, Ordo Romanus XI.

II. Anthropology and Conversion.


2. Christian Initiation and its place within the human experiences of conversion and initiatory practice.
III. The Development of Current Liturgical Practice

1. Current Liturgical Practice in the Oriental and Eastern Churches:
   A. Assyrian Church of the East
   B. Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch
   C. Syriac-Maronite Church
   D. Armenian Apostolic Church
   E. Byzantine Church
   F. Coptic Church

   A. Reconfiguration of the classical shape of initiation in the Western churches.
   B. The Scholastic articulation of the theology of initiation. Thomas Aquinas.
   C. The challenge of the Reformers and the response of the Council of Trent.

IV. Modern Period.

Pre-Conciliar Experimentation and the reforms set in motion by Vatican II.
General Norms and Adult Initiation.


2. The Purification and Enlightenment:
   Election, Scrutinies, Presentations, Process.

3. Sacramental Initiation (The Vigil) -- Mystagogy.

4. Rites for Particular Circumstances:
   a. Children of Catechetical Age
   b. Adult Initiation in Exceptional Circumstances
   c. Danger of Death
   d. Uncatechized Adults
   e. Reception into Full Communion.

5. The Baptism of Children.

6. Confirmation apart from Baptism.

7. Ecumenical Advances - Anglican and Lutheran Reforms

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

ACW  @Ancient Christian Writers
ANF  @Ante-Nicene Fathers
CCL  @Corpus christianorum series latina
DOL  @Documents on the Liturgy
EDIL @Enchiridion documentorum instaurationis liturgicae
FC   @Fathers of the Church
LQF  Liturgiewissenschaftliche Quellen und Forshungen [stacks]
OCA  Orientale Christiana Analecta
OCP  Orientale Christiana Periodica [ICOR center in Mullen Library]
SC   @Sources chrétiennes
WEC  @Worship in the Early Church: An Anthology of Historical Sources, 4 vols.

[CD is available in the reading room. Ask staff for assistance.]

4    Required reading for each topic. Unmarked works are supplemental.
®   On reserve – Mullen Library
Θ   Available in the non-circulating theology reading room collection – Mullen Library
▲  Blackboard
CE  Critical edition (in some cases this will be a diplomatic edition)
ET  English translation

August 28
Liturgical Studies: Review of Sources and Method.
I. Historical Development of Classical Shape of Initiation.
   1. The New Testament

◼Johnson, Rites of Christian Initiation, 1-40.


Kavanagh. The Shape of Baptism, 3-34.


**Mass of Holy Spirit – 8/30 -- no class**

September 4

New Testament continued as above.

September 6, 11

2. Pre-Nicene Sources in East and West:


4Johnson, Rites, 41-114.

4▲Bradshaw, Paul F. "'Diem baptismo sollemniorem': Initiation and Easter in Christian Antiquity." In Living Water, 137-147.


▲Table 1: Apostolic Tradition


Quasten, J. Patrology 1:29-39 (Didache); 1:147-52 (Didascalia Apostolorum); 1:196-220 (Justin); 2:163-207 (Hippolytus); 2:246-340 (Tertullian); 2:340-83 (Cyprian).

Saxer, Victor. Les rites de l’initiation chrétienne du II au VIe siècle (Centro Italiano di studi sull’alto medioevo 7), Spoleto, 1988, pp. 55-40, 57-144.


3. Post-Nicene Sources:
   
   A. Syria:
   
   
   
   B. Egypt: Serapion.

4▲Bradshaw, Paul. “Baptismal Practice in the Alexandrian Tradition: Eastern or Western?” In *Living Water*, 82-100.


September 20

3. Post-Nicene Sources (cont'd):
   
   C. The West: 1. Africa - Augustine and Carthage;
   2. Milan - Ambrose;
   3. The Ambrosian Rite.

4Johnson, *Rites*, 159-200.
4Whitaker, 140-152; 176-183, 183-203.
4▲Table 2: Comparative Chart of General Patristic Sources
4▲Table 3: Mystagogical Theology

Ambrose. *De Sacramentis* and *De Mysteriis*.
   


Riley, Hugh M. *Christian Initiation,* passim.


4. Spain and Gaul.

No required reading.


Levesque, Joseph L. “The Theology of the Postbaptismal Rites in the Seventh and Eighth Century Gallican Church,” *Living Water,* 159-201.


Whitaker, 153-175; 254-283.
September 25 & 27, October 2
3. Post-Nicene Sources (cont'd):
D. Lent and the Catechumenate.
E. The West: Rome and Gallo-Roman Synthesis: Roman Rite.
   John the Deacon, Sacramentarium Gelasianum, and Ordo Romanus XI.

4 Whitaker, 204-251.
4 Table 4: Roman Sources – GeV and OR11

CE These are given in Whitaker at the beginning of each section. The printed editions of the Latin manuscripts may be found in the Theology Reading Room of Mullen Library.
ET None of these documents is translated into English in its entirety. Portions are translated in Whitaker (above) and in Finn (cited below) and in WEC, vols 2 and 3, passim.

   ______. "Les deux rituels romains et gaulois de l'admission au catéchuménat que renferme le sacramentaire gélasien (Vat. Reg. 316),” In *Études de critique et d'histoire religieuse*. Lyon: Facultès Catholiques, 1948, pp. 79-98
October 4
II. Anthropology and Conversion.


***October 9 – Administrative Monday – No Tuesday Class today***

October 11
III. The Development of Current Liturgical Practice

1. Current Liturgical Practice in the Oriental and Eastern Churches:

   *A. Assyrian Church of the East
   --B. Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch
   *C. Syriac-Maronite Church
   --D. Armenian Apostolic Church
   *E. Byzantine Church
   --F. Coptic Church


Whitaker, 63-123, 132-139. Special attention given to above topics marked with an asterisk. Only these will be required for class discussion.

Canons for the Eastern Churches
Norms for Initiation in the Eastern Churches

**Printed Editions** of A, B, C, D, and F above in Latin translation:

**Printed Edition with French translation** of the Armenian Rite:

**English versions** of Initiation in the Byzantine Trebnik (Book of Needs):


***For additional bibliography see Sessions 5 and 6 above.

October 16, 18, 23

2. Initiation in the Medieval West.

   **Scholastic Theological Development. Thomas Aquinas.**


4▲______. “Lengthening of the Interval between Baptism and Confirmation.” Ibid., 120-140.


4ΘThomas Aquinas. *Summa theologiae*.

4ΘCouncil of Trent.

4ΘThe Catechism of the Council of Trent.


________. "Initiation: Lutheran, Anglican, and Reformed Rites" In The Study of Liturgy, pp. 154-166.

October 25, 30


4▲ Quam singulari
4▲ Sacrosanctum Concilium, 59-71. [DOL 16-17].
4▲ Table 5 RCIA General Outline
4SC Divine Worship. Christian Initiation: General Introduction, editio typica altera, Vatican City, 1973. The Rites 1:3-12; [see also DOL 719-725].
4_______. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: "Decretum" and "Praenotanda", Vatican City, 1969. The Rites 1:29-47; [see also DOL 735-761 and EDIL 1:830-859].

________. The Shape of Baptism, 81-203.

November 1, 6  
Adult Initiation (cont'd)  
2. The Purification and Enlightenment:  
Election, Scrutinies, Presentations, Process.


November 8, 13, 15  
Adult Initiation. 3. Sacramental Initiation (The Vigil) -- Mystagogy.


November 20, 27  <<Extended MA Research Paper due on 11/20>>

Adult Initiation.

4. Rites for Particular Circumstances:
   - Children of Catechetical Age
   - Adult Initiation in Exceptional Circumstances
   - Danger of Death
   - Uncatechized Adults
   - Reception into Full Communion.


November 29, December 4, 6  <<Paper 2 is due on 12/6>>

IV. Modern Period (cont'd)
   5. The Baptism of Children.
   6. Confirmation.

4SC Divine Worship. The Rite of Baptism for Children. The Rites 1:361-466; [See also EDIL 1:564-572].
4______ The Rite of Confirmation. The Rites 1:469-515; [See also EDIL 1:814-821].
4▲ Quinn, Frank C. “Confirmation Reconsidered: Rite and Meaning.” In Living Water, 219-237.
4Johnson, Rites, Chapter 9, pp. 375-450 and Chapter 10, pp. 451-478.
4▲ Pastoral-Canonical Notes


________. "New Rites of Initiation and Their Implications in the Lutheran Churches." In *LWSS*, 292-309.


Witczak, Michael G. *The Sacrament of Baptism*, espicially pp. 49-68.

APPENDIX 1
RESERVE LIST FOR TRS 641A


®Yarnold, E. Cyril of Jerusalem (BQ 324 .E3 Y3)

APPENDIX 2
Theology Reading Room
Mullen Library


APPENDIX 3
BLACKBOARD


1 Table 1: Apostolic Tradition

2 Table 2: Comparative Chart of General Patristic Sources

3 Table 3: Mystagogical Theology

4 Table 4: Roman Sources – GeV and OR11


4 Canons for the Eastern Churches

4 Norms for the Eastern Churches


4 Table 5: RCIA General Outline


4 Quinn, Frank C. “Confirmation Reconsidered: Rite and Meaning.” In Living Water, 219-237.

4 Pastoral Canonical Notes