Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

Fall 2021

STSP 4727 –Ecclesiology: Christian Movements

Contemporary ecclesial movements and their catechetical, pastoral and spiritual perspectives

Instructor: Joseph Boenzi, SDB
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Berkeley, CA 94708-1816     email jobonz@gmail.com

Course Description

Did the proliferation of religious movements during the twentieth century represent a new and dynamic element within the Church? What is the impact of this phenomenon at the start of the 21st century? Why do many ecclesial movements raise tensions and conflicts within the wider community?

During this course you will study new ecclesial movements from perspective of the Catholic experience in Europe through the socio-political upheaval of the last century, and then extend your study to examine some movements that originated in the Americas. Your scope will be learn about and understand lay ecclesial movements from within each movement by attempting to study the circumstances that led to their formation and development, “listening to” the testimony of their founders, leaders and members.

Since new ecclesial movements and communities continue to proliferate, it is not be possible to survey them all in the context of one semester course. Therefore, in the course we will concentrate on select movements that have an international impact. For your part, you study the historical origins of select movements, their expansion, their membership, and their growth. You will have the opportunity to investigate the evangelical and social motivations that have given rise to this phenomenon, examining the pastoral plans, the catechetical projects and the spiritual ideals at the foundation of each movement.

Format and Evaluation

Format: Lecture/discussion of assigned readings [3.0 units]. Evaluation: Participation in class discussion of assigned readings; research paper (20 pages) with summary presentation for class (20 minutes).

Timetables

Objectives

You will learn the inner workings of representative contemporary movements in the Church, especially in terms of their vision of faith and “their place in the world.”

You will survey differing models of Church by “hearing” the testimony of leaders and members of contemporary ecclesial movements and evaluating their impact on the surrounding Society and the wider Church.

You will learn methods for doing theological research and the ability to communicate this in a critical, research paper.

Evaluation:

Your final grade will be calculated on the basis of the completion of reading assignments, class participation, and written work.

In terms of participation, this presumes your active presence at all the class sessions, except in the case that you are sick or otherwise impeded and that notify the instructor before the scheduled class session. You are invited to participate in discussions, and special value will be given to group or class discussions when assigned readings are due.

In terms of written work, this will consist in the composition of a research paper (15/20 pages, which you will complete in three installments) or a class presentation (20 minutes, with a written outline, which you will make available to all the members of the class).

Theme for the research paper or class presentation project:

To fulfill the requirement of a research paper or class presentation, you will have the opportunity to investigate a contemporary ecclesial movement of your choice. In presenting the movement, you may concentrate on three questions: A) What practical service does the movement propose in its mission in Society or in the Church? B) What vision of faith does the movement accept (explicitly or otherwise)? C) What operative model of Church lies at the basis of the movement’s activities and contributions?

Scheduling

STSP 4727 is envisioned as being “in-person” in terms of the class presentations and participation. It is slated to meet on Thursday mornings from 9:40 to 12:30. During the first week of class, we will firm up the instruction calendar and due dates for assignments.

Texts and readings

Required Reading


Professor’s notes (available soon in hard copy estimated cost $35).

**Course Outline:**

**Introduction**

Contemporary Scene: Youth and Church  
The Quest for “Spirituality”  
The Proliferation of Church Groups  
Spiritual Movements and the Catholic Experience

1 - *Catholic Action*

Residue of 19th Century: restoration within ongoing revolution  
Grass-roots responses and thrust toward unity  
Local realities under Roman umbrella  
Apostolic action forms a new ecclesiology

2 - *The Catholic Worker*

Early 20th Century: American Landscape  
Philosophy and Radicalism: Dorothy Day and Pierre Maurin  
Action to Movement and beyond

3 – *Cursillos of Christianity*

Spanish Civil war – the veneer of Christianity is rubbed off  
Faith formation through witnessing  
Christian formation prepares for pilgrimage in faith  
Pilgrim journey becomes way of life  
From experience to movement, and a new ecclesiology

4 - *The Focolare Movement*

World War II – Christ in the Bombing Shelter  
Ecumenical Dimension of the Focolare Movement  
Spirituality of Unity
5 – *Communion and Liberation (CL)*

Action calls for reflection in post-Christian search for authenticity
Theological and educational foundations
Pastoral Applications

6 - *New Catechumen Communities (Neocatechumenate)*

Biblical movement seeps down to the grass roots: Exodus as personal
Phases in the Journey of conversion and commitment
Some problems raised by the New Catechumen Communities

7 - *The Renewal in the Spirit (Charismatic Movement)*

American Catholics between ecumenism and national identity
What is the Renewal in the Spirit?
Catechetical proposal, pastoral plan, spirituality

8 - *Christian Volunteerism*

Call to concrete contribution and mentality of service
Expansion of Volunteerism
Accompaniment as a model for Christian growth
Gospel Motivation

9 - *Basic Ecclesial Communities (Small Christian Communities)*

Latin American origins: fundamental option for the poor
Purpose, identity and organization
Ecclesiology of essentials and action
Social and Historic Role

10 - *Evaluating Contemporary Movements in the Church*

Ecclesial movements and the Church Universal
Theological models behind contemporary Movements
Models of a Church - World Relationship
Common Characteristics
Shadows and Light
Criteria for Discernment
Selected bibliography

Magisterium.

Pertinent Church documents are listed in chronological order. Unless otherwise noted, each document can be found on the website of the Holy See (Vatican).


Francis, Pope. “Vigil of Pentecost with the Ecclesial Movements.” Address of Holy Father Francis, St. Peter’s Square, Saturday, 18 May 2013.

_____ . “Solemnity of Pentecost, Holy Mass with the Ecclesial Movements.” Homily of Pope Francis, St Peter’s Square, Sunday, 19 May 2013.

General works.


Catholic Worker Movement


**Opus Dei**


**Focolare Movement**


**Cursillo of Christianity**


**Communion and Liberation**


**Basic Ecclesi communities.**


**The Neocatechumenal Way**


**Pentecostalism and the Charismatic Renewal**


**Volunteerism**


**Ecclesial Movements: Opposition and Controversies**


## Class Schedule:

*Fall Semester, Thursday, 9:40-12:30, 2301 Vine Street, Berkeley.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>CLASS READINGS</th>
<th>RESOURCES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>Introduction and course overview; sharing expectations</td>
<td>Introducing texts and resources</td>
<td><em>Lumen Gentium, Gaudium et Spes, Apostolicam Actuositatem; John Paul II, Christifidelis Laici; Third World Congress of Ecclesial Movements (2014); Philip Sheldrake, Russell Shaw</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Sep</td>
<td>Contemporary scene: youth, religious practice and the proliferation of New Religious Movements in a postmodern age</td>
<td>Notes, 9-31</td>
<td><em>Civardi, Congar, Zotti, Shaw</em></td>
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<td>23 Sep</td>
<td>Catholic Action &amp; YCW</td>
<td>Notes, 32-44</td>
<td><em>Day, Loaves &amp; fishes; CW, A Penny a copy</em></td>
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<td>23 Sep</td>
<td>Catholic Worker</td>
<td>Notes, 45-60</td>
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<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>Group discussion: Catholic Worker</td>
<td>Day, <em>The Long Loneliness</em></td>
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<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>Cursillos in Christianity</td>
<td>Notes, 61-70</td>
<td>*Bonin, Lackner, <em>Theology of the laity in the cursillo movement</em></td>
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<td>7 Oct</td>
<td>Focolare Movement</td>
<td>Notes, 71-84</td>
<td><em>Lubich, May they all be one; Christian living today; Povilus, United in his name</em></td>
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<td>7 Oct</td>
<td>Focolare Movement</td>
<td>Notes, 71-84</td>
<td><em>Focolarini, Unity our adventure, Gordon Urquhart</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Oct</td>
<td>Opus De</td>
<td>Notes: 85-94</td>
<td>*Peter Bristow, <em>Opus De: Christians in the Midst of the World</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Oct</td>
<td>Communion &amp; Liberation</td>
<td>Notes, 118-137</td>
<td><em>Albacete, God at the Ritz; Giussani, <em>The Religious Sense</em>; Rondini, Communion &amp; liberation</em></td>
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<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>Neocatechumenal Way</td>
<td>Notes, 138-153</td>
<td><em>Favale; Arguello, Hernandez; Osservatore Romano; Urquhart</em></td>
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<td>4 Nov</td>
<td>Charismatic movement</td>
<td>Notes, 154-175</td>
<td><em>Cordes, Call to holiness; Mansfield; Thigpen</em></td>
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<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>Basic Ecclesial Communities</td>
<td>Notes, 176-184</td>
<td><em>Ricardi, Kohen; Belo &amp; East Timor; C Boff, L Boff, Azevedo; Kleissler, O’Halloran, Pelton</em></td>
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<td>18 Nov</td>
<td><strong>Group Discussion: Basic Ecclesial Communities</strong></td>
<td>Russell Shaw: <em>Catholic Laity &amp; the Mission of the Church</em></td>
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<td>18 Nov</td>
<td>Christian volunteerism</td>
<td>Notes, 185-190</td>
<td>Vineyard; Comunità S. Egidio;</td>
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<td>25 Nov</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Day</strong></td>
<td>National Holiday</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<td>2 Dec</td>
<td><strong>Group Discussion: The New Ecclesial Movements</strong></td>
<td>Massimo Faggioli: <em>Sorting out Catholicism</em></td>
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<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>Evaluating ecclesial movements</td>
<td>Notes, 191-204</td>
<td>Favale, Shaw, Dulles, John Paul II, <em>Novo millennio inuente</em></td>
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<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>Wrap up</td>
<td>Conclusions and evaluation</td>
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