

Interim, January 2012: Contemporary Roman Catholic Theology

Prof. Ronald Cammenga

Course Syllabus

Course Description

The course will focus on contemporary Roman Catholic theology in light of the Council of Trent, Vatican I, and Vatican II, and recent developments in Roman Catholicism. The purpose of the course will be to examine the central teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and evaluate these teachings in the light of Scripture and the Reformed creeds. It will also be a purpose of the course to assess the current movement within Evangelical and Reformed churches that seeks rapprochement with Rome, based on the contention that since the time of the Reformation Rome has changed.

Textbooks

1. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. (United States Catholic Conference, 1994).
2. *Roman Catholicism*, by Loraine Boettner. (Presbyterian and Reformed, seventh printing, May 1969).

Additional Reading

1. *Fifty Years in the Church of Rome*, by Charles Chiniquy. (Chick Publications, 1985. This edition is an abridgement of the 1886 edition originally published in London by the Protestant Literature Depository.)
2. Various handouts.

Class Schedule

DAY 1: January 9

First Session: Introduction and overview.

“Bibliography of Works on Roman Catholicism”* **N.B.**

An asterisk designates a reading that is included as a photocopy in the course syllabus.

Annotated bibliography found at the end of *Is The Reformation Over?*, by Noll and Nystrom.*

“Some Roman Catholic Heresies and Inventions.”*

“Homesick No More: On How the Federal Vision Made Me Catholic.”*

Second Session: Scripture and Tradition.

CCC, pp. 19-38.

Boettner, Chapter IV, “Tradition.”

ECT III, “Your Word Is Truth.”*

“Roman Catholic Dogma,” (Wikipedia)*

“Scripture and Tradition,” by Sinclair Ferguson*

Evaluation introduced by Erik Guichelaar.

DAY 2: January 10

First Session: The Priesthood.

CCC, pp. 384-399.

Boettner, Chapter III, “The Priesthood.”

Chapter XIV, “Celibacy.”

“Priesthood (Catholic Church),” (Wikipedia)*

“The Priesthood,” by Richard Bennett.*

“Holy Orders,” (Wikipedia)*

Evaluation introduced by Joshua Engelsma.

Second Session: The Papacy.

CCC, pp. 227-237.

Boettner, Chapter V, “Peter.”

Chapter VI, “The Papacy.”

Chapter XI, “The Infallibility of the Pope.”

“History of the Papacy,” by Henry H. Halley.*

“Pope.” (Wikipedia)*

“Infallibility,” Catholic Encyclopedia.*

“John Paul II: Blessed in the Sight of God?”, by Richard Bennett, in *The Trinity Review*, special issue

April 2011.

Evaluation introduced by Ryan Barnhill.

DAY 3: January 11

First Session: The Church.

CCC, pp. 197-227.

Boettner, Chapter II, “The Church.”

“The Identity and Mission of the Church,” by Timothy G. McCarthy, chapter 4 of *The Catholic*

Tradition: The Church in the Twentieth Century.*

“Roman Catholicism's Recent Claim That It Is The True Church,” by Robert L. Reymond, *The Trinity Review*, January 2008.*

Evaluation introduced by Erik Guichelaar.

Second Session: The Sacraments.

CCC, pp. 311-333; 357-383; 400-415.

Boettner, Chapter IX, “The Confessional.”

Chapter XII, “Penance; Indulgences-Salvation By Grace or By Works?”

Chapter XV, “Marriage.”

“Sacraments of the Catholic Church,” (Wikipedia).*

“Sacraments,” in Catholic Encyclopedia.*

D. Engelsma, “A.D. 2000: Year of Jubilee-By Papal Indulgence or Reformation Gospel?”

Evaluation introduced by Joshua Engelsma.

DAY 4: January 12

First Session: The Mass.

CCC, pp. 334-356.

Boettner, Chapter VIII, "The Mass."
"The Church and the Eucharistic Worship," by Timothy
G. McCarthy, chapter 8 in *The Catholic
Tradition: The Church in the Twentieth*

Century.*

CRC Study Committee Report: "Heidelberg Catechism Q.
and A. 80 and the Roman Catholic Eucharist."*

"Should the Mass Really be Condemned," by Clayton W.
Spronk, in *Protestant Reformed Theological*

Journal, November 2005.*

"The Priest and the Lady."*

"Structure and Format of the Mass."*

Internet: "Traditional Latin Catholic Mass" at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6AOvStZS64>.

Second Session: Evaluation introduced by Ryan Barnhill.

DAY 5: January 13

First Session: Roman Catholic Worship.

CCC, pp. 294-310.

Boettner, Chapter XIII, "Ritualism."

"Duodecimum Saeculum (Veneration Of Holy Images),"
Pope John Paul II.*

"The Rosary."*

"How to Pray the Rosary."*

"Canonization," (Wikipedia).*

"Rome, Dr. Mouw, and Communion with the Saints, Or:
Have You Hugged a Roman Catholic of Late," by
Kenneth Koole, in *Standard Bearer*, November 1,
2007.

"Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints" and Saints' Feast
Days.*

"A Case of Demonic Possession," by Richard E. Gallagher,
in *New Oxford Review*, March 2008.*

Evaluation: all.

Second Session: Purgatory.

CCC, pp. 268, 269.

Boettner, Chapter X, "Purgatory."

"Purgatory," (Wikipedia).*

"Purgatory," in the *Catholic Encyclopedia*.

Evaluation introduced by Erik Guichelaar.

DAY 6: January 16

First Session: Mariology.

CCC, pp. 122-128; 190-192; 251-254.

Boettner, Chapter VII, "Mary."

Richard John Neuhaus, "True Devotion To Mary."*

"Roman Catholic Mariology," (Wikipedia).*

"How Sweet The Sound: The Voice of the Mother of God," by
Joseph Homick, *New Oxford Review*, July-August
2011.*

"A Prayer to Mary," by Richard J. Mouw.*

"Apparitions and Roman Catholic Doctrine," by Timothy F.
Kauffman, in *The Trinity Review*, February 2008.*

Evaluation introduced by Joshua Engelsma.

Second Session: Justification.

CCC, pp. 481-494.

"Joint Declaration On The Doctrine Of Justification."*

ECT I, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian
Mission in the Third Millennium."*

ECT II, "The Gift Of Salvation."*

Evaluation introduced by Ryan Barnhill.

DAY 7: January 17

First Session: Rome's Ecumenical Involvement.

CCC, pp. 214-218.

ECT IV, "The Communion Of Saints."*

Avery Cardinal Dulles, "Saving Ecumenism From Itself."*

"Manhattan Declaration: A Call to Christian Conscience."*

“Why I Will Not Sign the Manhattan Declaration,” by Clayton Spronk, *Standard Bearer*, January 15, 2010.*

“The Manhattan Declaration—A Document of Ongoing Controversy,” in three parts, by Kenneth Koole, *Standard Bearer*, August, September 1, and September 15, 2010.*

Evaluation: all.

Second Session: Council of Trent (1545-1563).

Vatican I (1869-1870)

Vatican II (1962-1965)

“Council of Trent,” *The Catholic Encyclopedia*.*

“Council of Trent,” from Wikipedia.*

“First Vatican Council,” *The Catholic Encyclopedia*.*

“Second Vatican Council,” from Wikipedia.*

Evaluation: all.

DAY 8: January 18

First Session: Rev. W. Bruinsma, “Mission Work Among and Witnessing To Roman Catholics.”

Rev. Vincent C. Licatesi, “Approaching the Roman Catholic.”*

Second Session: Conclusion.

Scott M. Manetsch, “Discerning The Divide: A Review Article.”*