



AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

TRANSFORMING CATHOLICS FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

THEO 763: *Christian Marriage: Perennial Principles & Contemporary Challenges*

June 15 through 19, 2015

Dr. Pia de Solenni with Professor Edward Sri, Professor Lucas Pollice, and guests

Course Description:

Christian marriage, as St. John Paul II taught, is a mystery, and on several levels: the self-giving love of husband and wife is a re-presentation of Christ's love for the Church; the fruitful love of husband and wife cooperates in God's plan to create immortal souls; the faithful love of mother and father for their children and grand-children mirrors and participates in God's providential care for his children. Yet the modern world—again, St. John Paul II—“does not tolerate mystery,” and thus our culture presents us with a crisis of the family. It is, therefore, necessary for Christian teachers and pastoral workers to ponder deeply the principles and ends of Christian marriage so as to be able better to instruct, to inspire, and to provide effective pastoral care. The task of this course is to be an occasion for just such a reflection, and particularly in the company of St. John Paul II, arguably the greatest Christian teacher on marriage and family.

Course Objectives:

1. To prompt reflection upon the nature and ends of marriage and family life.
2. To understand the Church's teaching on marriage and family life, especially as contained in the writings of St. John Paul II and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.
3. Thoughtfully to explore the catechetical and evangelical ramifications of the crisis of marriage and family, as well as effective pastoral care.

Course Requirements:

Participation in discussions in preliminary forum and conversation during the intensive week (15%); shorter essay (15%); longer essay (40%); final examination (30%).

Required Texts:

John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio* (Pauline); John Paul II, *Letter to Families*, with an introduction by Pia de Solenni (Sophia); Cormac Burke, *Covenanted Happiness* (Scepter, 1999); Greg & Julie Alexander, *Marriage 911* (Servant); Karol Wojtyla, *Love & Responsibility*; Edward Sri, *Men, Women, and the Mystery of Love: Practical Insights from John Paul II's Love and Responsibility* (Servant); *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

***All other course readings will be provided through Canvas.**

**** Longer list of suggested books for the book review project will be sent separately with this document.**

Syllabus of Readings and Topics for Discussion

*Readings to be made available in pdf or by link are marked *.*

MONDAY, JUNE 15

- 8:30-10:00 & 10:15-11:45 a.m. The Contemporary Assault on Marriage, I & II. (de Solenni)
- 1:30-3:00 & 3:15-4:45 p.m. The *Communio Personarum* of Husband and Wife. [Sacrament of Marriage/Beloved] (Sri)

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

- 8:30-10:00 & 10:15-11:45 a.m. Introduction to the Theology of the Body, I & II. (Sri)
- 1:30-3:00 & 3:15-4:45 p.m. Explaining the Church's teaching on Contraception, I & II. (de Solenni)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

- 8:30-10:00 & 10:15-11:45 a.m. Children as the Common Good of Marriage. (de Solenni)
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Matrimony. (de Solenni)
- 3:15-4:45 p.m. Marriage 911: A Lived Example of Spiritual Reconciliation – How a couple overcame the odds and survived from being on the brink of divorce. (Greg & Julie Alexander)

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

- 8:30-10:00 a.m. *Letter to Families* – Part I. (de Solenni)
- 10:15-11:45 a.m. The Role of the Family in the Church and in the World. (Pollice)
- 1:30-3:00 The Domestic Church – how to build a culture of faith in the home. (Pollice)
- 3:15-4:45 p.m. Grace in the Sacrament of Marriage: How to Live It! (Matt & Mindy Dalton)

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

- 8:30-10:00 *Letter to Families* – Part II. (de Solenni)
- 10:15-11:45 a.m. [Rebuilding a Troubled Marriage](#) – The Marriage Disciples™ approach and when to seek professional help. (Greg & Julie Alexander)

Coursework/Assignments

Final Examination (due Monday, July 6 for the students in the Intensive Session; due August 10 for DE students). Study questions will be made available on June 19 and July 24, respectively. Students are asked to not share these questions with anyone outside their course session.

Book Review (due Monday, July 13 for Intensive Session; due July 27 for DE students). Students will be asked to read one of the books from the attached list (apart from the required texts), to write a book report (+/- 2,500 words), analyzing a strength or a weakness in the book as it relates to a contemporary cultural situation.

Longer Essay (due Monday, July 27 for Intensive Session; due August 3 for DE students): A substantial reflection upon some aspect of the course, made in light of Church documents that have been assigned. (4,000 words +/-).