

THE CHURCH: the Series

“You are Rocky and on this rock I will build my church.” Matthew 16:16

Fall 2012

Week of October 7th - Week of November 25th

Eight Weeks

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Bob Schihl

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Class Description

People have a variety of concepts in mind when the word “church” is mentioned—everything from a building, a specific congregation, a denomination, as well as a universal collection of like believers. When Jesus said in Matthew’s Gospel that on Peter He “would build His church” what was it He had in mind? This course will come as close to what He had in mind as is possible.

We will cover “the church” from its origins and foundation, from its constitution, hierarchy, primacy within, to the papacy, the “True Church”, from a visible, juridical society to the Body of Christ. We will also look at qualities of the Church as indefectibility and infallibility. We will distinguish between the Vatican and the Church. Finally, the question most perplexing to people who do not understand it is what of salvation outside the Church?

Rationale/Class Overview

It would seem that all Catholics should at the least be informed of, if not understand, the fullness of what it means to belong to the Catholic Church. The Church stands at every step we take as Christians, from our conception, birth, Baptism, family life, education, choice of life-mates, is with us at the most important times of our lives, the moment of our birth and rebirth, and at the moment of our dying and death. The Church is concerned about our physical and spiritual well being, our lives and our dying as well as what happens at the moment of that death. Our future—eternal life—is the greatest goal of the Church for each of us, especially when that eternal life is the Kingdom of Heaven. What better study could any of us undertake than to understand better all that the Church means or should mean to us. This is where this study will take us.

Prerequisites

There is no tuition, there are no exams, no grading, no classroom attendance, no textbooks, etc., for this class. This class is provided free to those who wish to learn from it. If there is anything *similar* to a prerequisite, it would be that students should (1) complete the entire class once you commit to it, and (2) if you like it and find it informative, recommend it to others.

Course Outcomes

After this class you should be able to:

- 1) understand the biblical origin of the Church and its roots in the Chosen People of Judaism of the Old Testament;
- 2) appreciate the difference between the foundation and purpose of the Church;
- 3) know the connection between the constitution of the Church, its hierarchical structure and the role of primacy within it;
- 4) recognize the qualities of the True Church and to know them when we see them;
- 5) appreciate the origin and role of the various societal roles of the Church;
- 6) understand the meaning of the Church as the Body of Christ, its birth and its manifestation;
- 7) realize what the qualities of the Church mean, its indefectibility and infallibility;
- 8) understand the meaning of “no salvation outside the Catholic Church” today.

Class Materials

Required Materials

There are none. If you wish, both presentation formats, YouTube or Edu 2.0 class Internet sites, will provide you with files that you may download and print out. You will find at both Internet sites the same video files of my teaching units and PowerPoint slides.

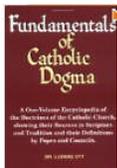
Recommended Materials

Additional Reading

Any good orthodox theology text on the theology of the church will do.

One that I like is:

Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma by Rev. Dr. Ludwig Ott available both new and used on Amazon.



On my Website I consider much of what makes up this class. The site is a good example of applying knowledge of the bible to the teachings of the Church. You may find my Website at catholicapologetics.org

Class Requirements and Assignments

Information and Edu 2.0 or YouTube access

As you may know, “Edu 2.0” is the commercial name for the course management service that handles our classes and your registration and enrollment. I have tried to keep the steps you need to access the course down to a minimum as you access the site time and time again. You need not re-register with Edu 2.0 once that has occurred. You **will** have to enroll in a new class every time you wish to study with me. It is the same as when you went to high school or college—registering in an institution was a one-time thing. But every semester, you had to enroll in new class.

The new format, with YouTube, is fast and easy. Give it a try before you try to master Edu 2.0.

Contacting the instructor

My e-mail contact number is listed at the top of this syllabus.

Attendance and participation

There is no requirement I can make of you to assure that the work for these courses and the good working of the Website are appreciated. Time and money have been invested in you and these programs. I ask that once you make a commitment to a class, that you complete it. Thank you. This is the best way for you to show your appreciation.

Class Lessons (week-by-week)

Week of:	Topic:
October 7 th	The Church: Its Meanings, Biblical Origins, Foundation, Purpose
October 14 th	The Church: Its Constitution, Hierarchy and Primacy
October 21 st	The Church: the Papacy, Its Perpetuation, Its Powers
October 28 th	The Church: Recognizing the True Church; How Do We Know it?
November 4 th	The Church: a Visible Society, a Juridical Society, <i>Lumen Gentium</i> (Vatican II)
November 11 th	The Church: the Body of Christ, the Mystical Body, Its Birth, Its Manifestation
November 18 th	The Church: Indefectible, Infallible
November 25 th	The Church: There is No Salvation outside the Catholic Church

I want to let you know how I create these Internet classes. You may be aware that I have taught many classes at St. Gregory the Great Church in Virginia Beach, VA and currently at St. Benedict Church in Anchorage, AK for the past few years, and for almost 28 years at Regent University and throughout the Richmond, VA, diocese. My customary way of teaching has been with the digital convenience of using Microsoft PowerPoint. Years ago, I used acetate overheads to present my material. PowerPoint made the presentations colorful and animated. But, I needed to be there when an audience saw the slides. Now with another great digital creation, I am able to add my image and voice to the PowerPoint slides as if I were live when you watch them.

I also usually created classroom courses in a two-hour time frame (with or without a break!). To create my new video presentations in the original two-hour blocks would be unreasonable. So now I break the presentations up into shorter units. I take the original unit (2 hours+) and break it up into "Part Ia," "Part Ib," etc. It is also convenient for you to be able to stop my presentation (e.g., to take a phone call, answer a doorbell, etc.) and then to start it and continue. It is also very convenient for you to be able to replay a portion of the presentation or re-view the entire presentation.

I will try to publish one week of PowerPoint material per week for the length of the class. That gives you a week to view the material before I publish a second part (and third, etc.). Classes will remain on-line and not be taken down at the end of the period for which the class is listed. You may access them and start them at any time you wish.

I also make available to you the original PowerPoint slides you see on the screen that you can download and print. When you print PowerPoint slides, you have the opportunity to select the "slides" themselves (which prints one PowerPoint slide per printed page) or choose "handouts" and then choose how many slides to print on a page. I usually choose two or four frames per printed page for my classroom courses. You can choose to print them in black and white or color. Color is not necessary.

Policies and Resources

Academic Calendar/Registration Information

My idea is to present classes in YouTube or Edu 2.0 formats as I taught them in the classroom—at least one series each fall and spring. So this is "my academic calendar." As I said above, you need to register only once with Edu 2.0; you do not have to enroll at all for YouTube. You can access the Edu 2.0 format by going to the homepage (www.stgregryvabeach.org). Scroll down to the icons for either Edu 2.0 or YouTube.

You can access YouTube directly from my Web site at catholicapologetics.org. Just click on either icon near the top of the homepage. You cannot get to my YouTube site by going directly to YouTube. It is a private site that they sponsor on their site.

Questions?

E-mail me at rjschihl@catholicapologetics.org.