CCS-004 THE SACRAMENTS

COURSE OUTLINE

The course will present an overview of the theology of the sacraments: the public and the liturgical prayer of the Church, as well as a discussion of each of the sacraments within the context of its role in the lives of the faithful.

General Course Objectives

1. Understand the power of sacramental words and symbols
2. Understand the meaning of grace and how sacraments confer grace
3. Explore a brief history of the sacraments
4. Gain an appreciation for the meaning of liturgy as an encounter with God and with the Church
5. Understand that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the ecclesial life
6. Examine the Sacraments of Initiation, the Sacraments of Healing and the Sacraments of Vocation

Course Structure and Highlights

Week 1: Liturgy: An Encounter With God and the Church

- Understand that liturgy is the work of Christ and the Church.
- Be able to explain the matter and form of the sacraments.

Week 2: A Brief History: Sacraments and Grace

- Understand the meaning of grace.
- Gain a basic comprehension of the complex history of the seven sacraments.

Week 3: Sacraments of Initiation

- Understand the matter and form of the Sacrament of Initiation.
- Understand the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Identify the gifts of the Holy Spirit and their relationship to our ordinary lives.

Week 4: Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick

- Understand why the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick are considered Sacraments of Healing.
- Gain a basic understanding of the development of these sacraments through history.

Week 5: The Sacraments of Vocation

- Understand the form and matter of the Sacraments of Vocation.

- Understand the history of the Sacraments of Vocation.

Textbooks
Stasiak, Kurt. *Sacramental Theology: Means of Grace, Ways of Life*. Loyola Press, 2001.

Assessment
Introduction to the Sacraments consists of ten lessons and ten assignments, with each assignment weighted at 10% (percent) of the total grade.

Technical Skills and Equipment Requirements

1. You must have Internet access. A high-speed connection, either ADSL or cable, is recommended.

2. You should know how to use a web browser to navigate the web to locate educational resources and download files.

3. You will need the files management skills necessary to create directories, to save files and to retrieve files.