

TANTUR SUMMER SEMINAR
Communion among Christians: the Early Church and Today

Syllabus

Monday, July 3: *Christian Beginnings.*

Readings: Ludwig Hertling, *Communio*; Letters of Clement of Rome & Ignatius of Antioch.

The issues: What does the earliest Christian practice reveal about how Christians understood the Church as "one body"? Does this offer us a model for future relations among the Churches?

Leader: Brian Daley, SJ

Tuesday, July 4: *Universal Communion and Gnostic Christianity.*

Readings: Irenaeus, *Against the Heresies*, selected texts.

The issues: Irenaeus links communion in Church structures and sacramental life with fidelity to the apostolic message. How is Church structure and authority related to right faith? Can one be faithful as a Christian without some form of sharing in the universal body of believers? What would that look like? How does Irenaeus help us reflect on these needs?

Leader: Prof. Scott Moringiello (DePaul University)

Wednesday, July 5: *Church Unity under Persecution: the Writings of Cyprian.*

Readings: Cyprian, *On the Unity of the Church*; selected letters.

Issues: What new pressures on Christian unity are raised by external political and social hostility to the body of Christian faithful? Are there analogies today? What is Cyprian's model of Christian unity in faith and structure?

Leader: Prof. J. Patout Burns (Vanderbilt University, ret.)

Thursday, July 6: *The Donatist Model of the Church, and the Response of Augustine.*

Readings: W. H. C. Frend, *The Donatist Church* (chapters); Augustine, selected Sermons; *Homilies on I John*; Augustine, Letters on Apiarius

Issues: How did Donatists and Catholics really differ? What assumptions lay behind the schism? What were the real issues? Why did Augustine resist Donatist thought? Does Donatist spirituality and ecclesiology exist today?

Leader: Dr. Jane Merdinger

Friday, July 7: *The Re-establishment of Communion in Early Christianity.*

Readings: Henry Chadwick, *Selected Writings* (chapters); Henry Chadwick, *East and West* (chapters); Basil of Caesarea, Letters; Council of Sardica Acts and Canons.

Issues: What led to breaches of communion in early Christianity? How have they generally been healed? Who made – and makes - the key decisions?

Possible leader: Brian Daley, SJ.

Monday, July 10: *Primitive Christian Structures.*

Readings: J. M. R. Tillard, *Flesh of the Church, Flesh of Christ* (chapters); Christopher Ruddy, *The Local Church* (chapters).

Issues: Does Tillard adapt the ancient material well to present needs? What is missing?

Leader: Prof. Christopher Ruddy (Catholic University of America)

Tuesday, July 11: *The Will towards "Full Eucharistic Communion": The Costs and Desire.*

Readings: Lutheran-Catholic Joint Declaration on Justification (1999); US Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue, *Declaration on the Way.*

Issues: How might we imagine "full Eucharistic communion" among divided church bodies? Does it require a shared general understanding of the Church's sacramental reality? Of the Eucharist? Why include reference to the Eucharist at all? Is Christian Unity, as a genuinely "reconciled diversity," really possible in Eucharistic terms? Do enough Christians really want it to let it happen? What role does charismatic leadership play in such a process?

Leaders: Bishop Denis Madden (USCCB); Dr. Kathryn Johnson (ELCA)

Wednesday, July 12: *New Catholic Ecumenism? Yves Congar and Vatican II.*

Readings: Yves Congar, *Divided Christendom* (chapters); Yves Congar, *After 900 Years* (1959; chapters); Vatican II, *Unitatis Redintegratio.*

Issues: How did Congar's concern for healing divisions among the churches open the Catholic Church's way to rethinking its position?

Leader: Prof. Joseph Komonchak (Catholic University of America; ret.)

Thursday, July 13: *A Communion of Communions? Communio Ecclesiology Today.*

Readings: Joseph Ratzinger, *Called to Communion* (chapters); John Zizioulas, *Being as Communion* (1985, chapters); US Orthodox-Catholic statement, *Steps Towards a Reunited Church*; The Princeton Proposal, *In One Body through the Cross.*

Issues: What possibilities for the relationship of Christian Churches are offered by the communion model in today's pluralistic world? Is it romantically unrealistic? How might such a body be regulated? Need it be?

Leader: Prof. Paul Meyendorff (St. Vladimir's School of Theology; ret.)

Friday, July 14: *"Reconciled Diversity": Primacy and Communion.*

Readings: John Paul II, *Ut Unum Sint*; Walter Kasper, *Harvesting the Fruits* (chapters); Walter Kasper, *Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism*.

Issues: How is substantial diversity among Christians to be reconciled? Is the Catholic model of primacy a help or an obstacle to the unity of all Christians in faith? Have recent efforts by the Roman Church to redefine the Papacy's role in the life of the Church made significant differences for ecumenical reunion? Does Cardinal Kasper's recent approach differ from Pope John Paul's vision?

Leaders: Profs. Shawn and Kristin Colberg (St. John 's University, Collegeville).

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Dates: July 3 – 14, 2017.

Membership: about 10 senior participants;
about 20 graduate students or post-doctoral members;
possibly some students from diploma program at the Salesian Seminary, Jerusalem.

Daily Structure: - Catholic Eucharist (optional; 8 a.m.)
- morning prayer (9 a.m.)
- morning seminar (9:30 – 11:30 a.m.), led by a senior participant and a graduate student; focus on the day's readings.
- afternoon session (2:30 – 4:30 p.m.): led by two students. How does this subject, these readings, affect the present life of Christians?
- evening prayer (5:15 p.m.)

One or two evenings: public lecture by a senior participant (e.g., during second week: Prof. Robin Jenson on "Peter and Paul in Early Iconography")

One or two afternoons a week: local "field trips" to holy sites, places that reveal local Christian diversity (e.g., tour led by Hannah); trip to local monastery.

Sunday: Mass at Melkite cathedral; visit to Lutheran or Anglican center, to Orthodox Patriarchate. Visit to the Old City of Jerusalem