Image of God: Christ, Creation, Humanity
— A Franciscan Vision —

SFS 564 B
June 30 — July 18, 2014
Three Weeks, Monday — Friday
9:00 — 11:40 AM

Professor: Johannes B. Freyer ofm,

Course description: Following the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition, the course introduces and deepens important theological topics: Christology, Theology of Creation and Theological Anthropology. The common meeting-point of this single theological subject is recognized by the Franciscan Tradition in being image of God. By the interaction of these mirrors – Christ, Creation and Humanity – God’s mystery will be revealed. The course is mainly founded on the teaching of Alexander of Hales, Bonaventure, Peter Olivi and John Duns Scotus, and will look also to issues of contemporary relevance.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to focus on an increase of the theological knowledge of the possible openness, plainness and diverse wideness of the orthodox catholic tradition in the real sense of the word: “katholicos – katholou”, relating to the universal and belonging to the fullness of christian faith. To help the students to open themselves to this universal wideness the knowledge of basic doctrine will be enriched by the Franciscan Tradition.

At the end of the semester a student may be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of basic theological doctrine, considering the possible plurality which enriches the tradition by the Franciscan Vision.

2. Show to be able to participate with spiritual openness and respect in the dialog between the variety of theological concepts.

3. Show to be able to confront and to adopt the theological theory in the our days context.

4. Demonstrate to be prepared for an ongoing intellectual and empathic
learning in the

Course Outline

I. **Introduction – Living in a world of Images**; Creating Images.
   - My Image of God: Pictures and Symbols; Images of Christ/God during christian history (some pictures).
   - Humanity and Cognition of Images; Biblical Sources and Theological Interpretation;

II. **Creation – Mirror of God (Theology of Creation).**
   1.) From the Image of Myth to the Image of Word
   2.) God's self-revelation

   **Reading for this Section:**
   - 3.) Dogmatic Doctrine and the Franciscan Impetus.
   - 4.) Franciscan Tradition and Coherence of Creation with History.

III. **Hallmark of the Trinity (The Theology of Trinity reflected by the Franciscan Tradition).**
   5.) Creation as Hallmark of the Trinity and Human as Image and in Likeness of God.

   **Reading for this Section:**

IV. **Created by and in the true Image (Franciscan Christology and Anthropology).**
   6.) An eidetic/ iconic Christology.

   **Reading for this Section:**
7.) Human as “Homo assumptus”.

8.) Broken Image – Human, Sin and Redemption.

V. The Holy Spirit as effective Image (Pneumatology and Franciscan Ethics).

9.) The dynamic Ontology.

Reading for this Section:


10.) Fellowship and Prophetic Lifestyle.

Course procedure: This course will be a combination of lecture, reading and discussions.

Expectations: Reading of at least a part of one of the sources and reading of the basic secondary literature of every section.

The evaluation also will be based on participating actively in class, a required reading of at least 1 title chosen during the course and an oral examination based on a 10-12 page paper.

Participation 30% of the grade
The class attendance and the active participation in the discussions are important components of this course and represent a significant part of the grade.

Reading 20% of the grade
The personal reading of Sources and secondary literature deepens in an important way the lecture and is part of the intellectual formation.

Paper 30% of the grade
The Paper shows the capacity of the student to acquire critically a theological topic and to adopt it to the own context of life. With the Paper the student demonstrates the ability of independent and self-contained reflection.

Oral examination 20% of the grade
The student shows the capacity to present his reflected knowledge in a convincing presentation.

Reading Sources (Choose at least one title):

Itinerarium Mentis in Deum (Journey of the Soul Into God).
   ed. (†)Philotheus Boehner, OFM and Zachary Hayes, OFM

Breviloquium, Works of St. Bonaventure, Vol. IX.
ed. Dominic V. Monti, OFM

Peter of John Olivi on the Bible, Translation by David Flood, OFM and Gedeon Gal, OFM


Vos, Antonie, Henri Veldhuis, Eef Dekker, Nico W. den Bok, and Andreas J. Beck eds.). Duns Scotus on Divine Love: Texts and Commentary on Goodness and Freedom, God and Humans. Aldershot and Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2003. [Bilingual; contains Lectura prol. p. 3; p. 4 q. 1-2 n. 172; Lectura I d. 10; Lectura I d. 17; Lectura I d. 40 – 41; Ordinatio I d. 46 – d. 47; Ordinatio III d. 28 – d. 29.]

Wolter, Allan B. “John Duns Scotus on the Primacy and Personality of Christ.” In Franciscan Christology: Selected Texts, Translations and Introductory Essays, edited by Damian McElrath, 139–82. Franciscan Sources 1. St. Bonaventure, N.Y.: Franciscan Institute Publications, 1980. [Contains Ordinatio III d. 7 q. 3; Ordinatio III suppl. d. 19; Ordinatio III d. 32; Ordinatio III d. 13 q. 1–4; Ordinatio I d. 23 q. un. n. 15–16; Quodlibet q. 19; Ordinatio III d. 1 q. 1; Ordinatio III d. 2 q. 1; Ordinatio III d. 5 q. 2; Ordinatio III d. 12 q. un.]