Term: Spring 2014
Instructor: Rev. Robert Doran, S.J.
Course #: THEO 8524
Course Title: Doctrinal Themes in Contemporary Roman Catholic Theology:
Topic: The Trinity in History

Content:

The course will focus on both Bernard Lonergan's systematics of the Trinity, as presented in THE TRIUNE GOD: SYSTEMATICS (vol. 12 in Collected Works of Bernard Lonergan) and the professor's development of this work in THE TRINITY IN HISTORY: A THEOLOGY OF THE DIVINE MISSIONS, VOL. 1: MISSIONS AND PROCESSIONS. The missions are the processions joined to created external terms. A theology of the Trinity in history can be constructed from the four-point hypothesis in the final chapter of THE TRIUNE GOD: SYSTEMATICS, where the four divine relations are correlated with four created participations in the relations. The professor's work develops this hypothesis in light of the theory of history he presented in THEOLOGY AND THE DIALECTICS OF HISTORY, including major discussions of such points as social grace and the scale of values. The mimetic theory of René Girard is introduced as a counterfoil to the notion of imitating the divine relations.

Format:

Classes will combine lecture and seminar/discussion. Either the professor (most of the time) or one of the students taking the course for credit will present on the assigned reading for the week. Around 4:30, three students (credit or audit) or two students and the professor will present ten-minute responses to the same material, with questions for discussion. The remainder of the class will be devoted to the questions raised.

The focus of each class will be on specific readings from the principal texts, which we will try to read in their entirety (with the exception of chapter 1 of THE TRIUNE GOD: SYSTEMATICS).

Supplementary readings will be suggested and in at least one case required (Lonergan’s 1951-52 notes on grace).

While orders for both books will be placed with the bookstore, students should be aware that THE TRIUNE GOD: SYSTEMATICS can also be accessed via E-brary through Raynor Library, and that THE TRINITY IN HISTORY is available as a Kindle book. The professor also has four copies of THE TRIUNE GOD: SYSTEMATICS that could be loaned to students for the semester (first some, first served).

Students are most welcome to bring other perspectives on Trinitarian theology to bear on the readings.

Assignments and/or Examinations:
Each student taking the course for credit will be asked to make one major presentation on assigned readings.

Three students (credit or audit) will be expected to make 10-minute responses to the same material in each class.

Language Pre-requisites:

Latin will be a help in reading Lonergan's THE TRIUNE GOD: SYSTEMATICS, since the book has Latin and English facing pages. But reading knowledge of Latin is NOT a requirement.