

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE FOR SISTERS

200 A Morris Ave.

Denville, NJ 07834

Accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Th 208A Special Topics in Theology: Contemporary Issues

6:30-9:15 pm Wednesdays

SPECIAL COVID 19 OFFER:

- Due to the uncertainty of the times and as a gift to our faithful audience, we are offering this class via video conferencing each Wednesday.
- There will be no charge for those merely auditing but we will continue charging for those seeking college credit (Th208A is a 3 credit course and the charge is \$516.)
- Application for those seeking credit and for those auditing the entire course is attached.
- Instructions for participation will be given in early August.

For more information and application, contact Academic Dean: 973-957-0188 Ext. 100

Date	Topic
8/26	Different Ways to Pray: Sister Josita Marks, SCC This evening we will explore some different Prayer Forms in our spiritual tradition. As Robert J Wicks wrote " <i>No one ever masters prayer or gains, once and for all, the perfect attitude of prayerfulness. But interest in expanding and deepening one's appreciation and practice of prayer and a prayerful attitude is a true cause for celebration.</i> "
9/2	Health Care through the Lens of the Pandemic: Rev. Msgr. George Hundt We will examine the ethical and religious direction for health care and how they were applied to the challenge of the pandemic. We will also look at the allocation of health care resources in the care of the whole person.
9/9	Discernment: Judith Schiavo How do we know if we are listening to the voice of God in our decisions? In our session this evening we will uncover how St. Ignatius of Loyola developed a guide for discernment in making decisions from the daily ordinary tasks to life-changing experiences. We will visit the lives of Oscar Romero, Etty Hillesum, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pope Francis, and Joyce Rupp, OSM, to reflect on their personal experiences of discernment. Additionally, time will be provided for sharing our own examples in this process of discernment.
9/16	The Challenge of Becoming Intentional Disciples: Sister Theresa Kelly, FMA At a time when many young people are drifting away from our Catholic faith at an ever younger age, this workshop will explore the challenge of Jesus' mandate: "Go and make disciples." It will offer some practical reflections and concrete ways of 'becoming disciples' ourselves, and of leading children and teens to encounter Jesus, experience the community of faith, and be involved in the mission inherent in our baptismal call."
9/23	Faithful Citizenship: Msgr. Mark Condon The <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> (cf. CCC, 1906-1910) exhorts believers to be eager to advance "the common good." We attend to the good of the human family through our (1) respect for the human person; (2) by seeking social well-being and development; (3) and working toward peace in the world. All of those goals require, from the vantage point of faith, belief in God and reverence for God's natural law. Those goals also require a recognition of the proper place of the political community. We will discuss various ways in which responsible citizenship leads us toward care of the common good in various ways.

9/30	<p>Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration: Sister Graciela Colon, SCC</p> <p>Why do people migrate and what does the Catholic Church teach about migration? We will talk about the 5 Catholic principles on migration as drawn from the 2003 document from the Catholic Bishops of the United States and Mexico, " Strangers No Longer: Together on The Journey of Hope". We will take a look at the history of the Church's views on migration and take a close look at the current immigration landscape in the United States.</p>
10/7	<p>The Quest for Happiness: Introduction to Moral Theology: Rev. Pawel Tomczyk</p> <p>The focus of this lecture will be to introduce the students to the field of moral theology. We will explore the origins, contents, and the basic orientation of the study of human morals by drawing attention to its Greco-Roman roots as well as its later Christian and modern influences which dominate our understanding of morality today.</p>
10/14	<p>Reaching Youth to Build a Culture of Love and Life: Christine Flaherty and Holly Wright</p> <p>LIFENET will share effective techniques in reaching youth and young adults with the beauty of God's plan for love, marriage and sex and how embracing the virtue of chastity is the means to love authentically. Presentation will also cover why we should all be concerned about protecting human life and how we can spread the pro-life message in our spheres of influence. Attendees will also hear how to effectively engage students, both in-person and via video-conferencing in our post-COVID 19 world.</p>
10/21	<p>Social Media: A Blessing and Challenge for Church: Rev. Jared Brogan</p> <p>Pope Francis has said (World Day of Communications 2019) that social media opens "the way for dialogue, for encounters, for 'smiles' and expressions of tenderness...This is the network we want, a network created not to entrap, but to liberate, to protect a communion of people who are free." The Holy Father highlights the blessings and challenges of social media. This presentation will take a look at both.</p>
10/28	<p>From Mary to Dorothy Day: The Role and Impact of Women in the Church: Colleen O'Brien</p> <p>This lecture will look at the role women have played in the church over the ages, beginning with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to the women at the tomb all the way to present day women who are impacting our church and our world in wonderful ways. What is the call for women in the Church? The answer lies in ways women have been leaders, theologians, and justice workers all for the greater glory of God.</p>
11/4	<p>Sacred Soundings – Life in Communion with 21st Century Saints: Sister Marie Pauline Demek, SCC</p> <p>The Book of Wisdom speaks of passing into holy souls and making them "friends of God and prophets". (Wis. 7:27) This symbol will be explored using a variety of Church documents, theological writings, creative ideas. Everyone enjoys hearing about the saints and the beloved of God! Recent saints canonized and recognized by the Church include a variety of people. This presentation hopes to introduce the audience to some new "friends of God and prophets."</p>
11/11	<p>The Gospel Call to the Margins: Sister Patrice Owens, SCC</p> <p>As Christians we are called to respond to the Gospel call to the margins. Jesus spent a lot of time on the margins in his time and he invites us to meet him there in our day. It is the call to act with justice, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8) The lecture will outline what the call to the margins is and how we respond by looking at the Church's social teaching, the two feet of justice and examples in the life of Jesus, Dorothy Day and Oscar Romero.</p>
11/18	<p>Laudato Si - On Care of Our Common Home: Marie Raffay</p> <p>Through the framework of Pope Benedict's ground breaking encyclical to the whole world, we will discuss how our faith is calling us to unite in solidarity for a more just and sustainable future for all of God's creation. This allows us to encompass the current pandemic and the possible discussions we might want to have in 6 months from now. Laudato Si falls right in line with what we are going through right now.</p>
12/2	<p>Artificial Intelligence: Deacon Russell Raffay</p> <p>While some believe that AI will be the downfall of religion, others believe it will actually strengthen our beliefs. Join us for an intriguing look into the future of AI and its possible impact on our faith.</p>
12/9	<p>"Mental Health in the USA -- A Practical Overview": Sister Elizabeth Kovacs, SCC.</p> <p>I would like to cover some of the more common mental health disorders -- their causes, treatments and helpful techniques in relating to these patients. I am also planning to give some statistics about psychiatric treatment services in the USA versus the numbers of patients requiring these psychiatric services (a "supply and demand" type of scenario).</p>