

Catholic Bible Studies: The Book of Revelation (The Apocalypse)

[In Memoriam: Bruce Vawter, CM (1921-86), One of the Leading Catholic Bible Scholars of Recent Times]

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Center: 215 Lomita St., El Segundo, CA 90245-4148

Summer 2012 : June - September Mondays, 7 p.m.

Fr. Thaddeus Noel G. Laput, CM

Course Description:

This course on the hotly debated, often misinterpreted and sadly neglected part of the Bible, intends at promoting biblical literacy among the committed participants (parishioners and non-parishioners), dispelling the misunderstanding, confusion, and fear often associated with the reading of the book. It aims at empowering the learners to embrace the essential message of the last book of the Bible, that is: to serve God and Christ faithfully in the midst of a hostile pagan society that exults power, wealth, and pleasure; and to live out Revelation's spirituality of resistance, hope and liberation. The study will do exegetical analysis of the Apocalypse aided by secondary texts from historical, literary, ethical, and theological perspectives. In its exploration, each unit of the text under study is examined with the following guide questions: *What is its contextual meaning? What does it say and teach? How was it received and interpreted (or misinterpreted) in the Church, society, culture, and the arts through the centuries? What does the Catholic Church teach about it today? and, What should I do and how do I apply it in life?* Leading biblical literacy flow into biblical spirituality, it is the aim of this course to let the participants know, follow, and worship more deeply the God and the Lamb revealed to John of Patmos.

Course Schedule:

- 1. *General Introduction to Catholic Bible Studies***
- 2. *Introduction to the Book of Revelation***
3. Prologue & the Commissioning of John (Rev 1)
4. The Messages to the First Four Churches (Rev 2)
5. The Messages to the Other Three Churches (Rev 3)
6. The Throne of God (Rev 4)
7. The Lamb & the Scroll (Rev 5)
8. The First Six Seals (Rev 6)
9. An Interlude (Rev 7)
10. The Seventh Seal & the First Four Trumpets (Rev 8)
11. The Fifth & Sixth Trumpets (Rev 9)
12. The Mighty Angel & the Little Scroll (Rev 10)
13. The Temple, the Two Witnesses, & the Seventh Trumpet (Rev 11)
14. The Woman & the Dragon (Rev 12)
15. The Two Beasts (Rev 13)
16. Interlude (Rev 14)
17. Seven Angels with Seven Bowls (Rev 15)

18. The Pouring of the Seven Bowls (Rev 16)
19. The Great Whore (Rev 17)
20. Laments on Earth (Rev 18)
21. Celebration in Heaven & the Triumphant Christ (Rev 19)
22. The Millennial Reign & the Defeat of Satan (Rev 20)
23. New Heaven & New Earth & the Holy City (Rev 21)
24. The River of Life & Epilogue (Rev 22)
25. ***Following the Lamb, Resisting the Beast: Revelation's Theology of Discipleship***
26. ***Celebrating the Lamb's Wedding Feast: Revelation's Theology of Worship***

Required Texts (Primary Bible Text & Secondary Texts / References):

The Catholic Study Bible: The New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) (2011); or,
 C. Cory, *The Book of Revelation. New Collegeville Bible Commentary* (2006).
Bruce Vawter, CM, *Revelation: A Divine Message of Hope* (1969/2001).

Recommended Texts / Other References / Resources for Further Reading:

M.E. Boring, *Revelation. Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching* (1989/2011).
 N.T. Wright, *Revelation for Everyone* (2011).
 M. Gorman, *Reading Revelation Responsibly. Uncivil Worship & Witness: Following the Lamb into the New Creation* (2010).
 J.N. Kraybill, *Apocalypse & Allegiance: Worship, Politics, & Devotion in the Book of Revelation* (2010).
 H. Maier, *Apocalypse Recalled: The Book of Revelation After Christendom* (2002/2009).
 W. Ewing, *Power of the Lamb: Revelation's Theology of Liberation for You* (1990/2006).
 J. Kovacs & C. Rowland, *Revelation: The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ. Blackwell Bible Commentaries* (2004).
 B. Witherington, *Revelation. The New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (2003).
 C. Koester, *Revelation & the End of All Things* (2001).
 M. Reddish, *Revelation. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary* (2001).
 G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text. New International Greek Testament Commentary* (1999).
 W. Howard-Brook & A. Gwyther, *Unveiling Empire: Reading Revelation Then & Now* (1999).
 R. Bauckham, *The Climax of Prophecy: Studies in the Book of Revelation* (1993).
 R. Bauckham, *The Theology of the Book of Revelation* (1993).
 E. Peterson, *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John & the Praying Imagination* (1988).

Highly Recommended Videos (DVD or other media, like Youtube, etc.):

Lux Vide, *The Apocalypse* [Richard Harris] (2002).
 P.B.S., *Apocalypse! The Story of the Book of Revelation* [L.Michael White] (1999).

