

Catholic Bible Institute in the Diocese of Orange
Syllabus for Year One: New Testament (2016–2017)

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Books for Orientation Session and Year One: New Testament

- 1) *Dei Verbum*, “Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation” (Vatican II; <http://vatican.va>)
- 2) Ronald D. **Witherup**, S.S. *Biblical Fundamentalism: What Every Catholic Should Know*.
Collegetown, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2001. (\$14.95; **LIS new \$12; used \$8**)
- 3) A good recent “Study Edition” of the Bible (with extensive introductions, notes, maps, etc.):
 - 3a) *Anselm Academic Study Bible: Catholic Edition*. Edited by Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, and Leslie Hoppe, OFM. Anselm Academic Press, 2013. (\$39.95; **LIS \$38**; ppr \$34.95)
 - 3b) *Catholic Study Bible*. 3rd edition. Ed. by Donald Senior, CSP, John Collins, & Mary Ann Getty. Oxford University Press, 2016. (\$49.99; ppr \$39.99; **Amazon 30-40% off**)
- 4) A good recent introductory textbook for the NT:
 - 4a) Certificate: Raymond E. **Brown**. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Doubleday, 1997. (\$75; **Amazon \$16 - \$58**)
 - 4b) Certificate: Mark Allan **Powell**. *Introducing the New Testament*. Baker Academic, 2009. (\$45; **Amazon \$25**) – free related website: www.IntroducingNT.com
 - 4c) Enrichment: Margaret Nutting **Ralph**. *A Walk through the New Testament*. Paulist Press, 2012. (ppr \$19.95; **LIS new \$15; used \$10**)
- 5) Kurt **Aland**. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: English Edition*. American Bible Society, 1982. (\$50; **LIS new \$35; used \$20-25**)
- 6) **Other recommended biblical resources:** <http://catholic-resources.org/Bible>

Reading and Writing Assignments for Year One: New Testament

Please do the scheduled readings *before* coming to each month’s session, *especially* the biblical texts!

- For each biblical book, read the **biblical text** itself, *as well as* the introduction(s) in your Study Bible.
- **Enrichment** students: read the assigned chapters of **Ralph** (and/or Brown or Powell, as you wish).
- **Certificate** students: read the assigned chapters of **Brown OR Powell** (and *also* Ralph, if you wish).
- **Note:** Chapters in Brown’s book are long and detailed, so you are *not* expected to read every single word. For each chapter, *carefully read* sections called “General Analysis of the Message” and “The Background,” but only *briefly skim* the concluding “Issues and Problems for Reflection” and any other sections in between.
- **Written reflection papers** must be *emailed* to your reader *within two weeks* after each monthly session.

August 20: Orientation Session: Principles of Catholic Biblical Interpretation

DEI VERBUM: “Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation,” from Vatican II

WITHERUP: *Fundamentalism* (read whole book)

One-page Reflection Paper, due Sept. 17 (bring with you): on **Dei Verbum** & **Witherup’s book**

September 17: Introduction to the NT & Gospel according to Mark

BIBLE: **The Gospel according to Mark** (and the chapter introduction(s) in your Study Bible)

BROWN: Chapters 1, 6A (pp. 99-111), Ch. 7; also *skim* Ch. 2 & 3 (*as your time permits*)

POWELL: Chapters 1-3 and 6; RALPH: Chapters 1–3

Reflection Paper, due Oct. 1 (email to your reader): on **Mark 5, or Mark 7, or Mark 13**

October 22: *Gospel according to Matthew*

BIBLE: **The Gospel according to Matthew** (and the chapter introduction(s) in your Study Bible)

BROWN: Chapter 6B (pp. 111-122) and Ch. 8; also *skim* Ch. 4 & 5 (*as your time permits*)

POWELL: Chapters 4 & 5; RALPH: Chapter 4

Reflection Paper, due Nov. 5: on **Matt 7, or Matt 18, or Matt 25**

November 19: *Luke's Two-Volume Work*

BIBLE: **The Gospel according to Luke & The Acts of the Apostles**

BROWN: Chapters 9–10; POWELL: Chapters 7 & 9; RALPH: Chapters 5 & 7

Reflection Paper, due Dec. 3: on **Luke 10, or Luke 16, or Acts 7, or Acts 19**

December 17: *Johannine Christianity*

BIBLE: **The Gospel according to John**

BROWN: Chapter 11; POWELL: Chapter 8; RALPH: Chapter 6

Reflection Paper, due Jan. 7: on **John 3, or John 15, or John 17**

January 21: *Paul's Early/Undisputed Writings*

BIBLE: **1 Thessalonians, Galatians, Philippians, Philemon, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans**

BROWN: Chapters 18–24 (also *skim* Ch. 15–17)

POWELL: Chapters 10-15, 17, 19, 22; RALPH: Chapter 8–15

Reflection Paper, due Feb. 4: on **1 Thess 2–3, or Phil 2, or 1 Cor 15, or 2 Cor 8–9, or Rom 11**

February 18: *Deutero-Pauline Letters/Epistles*

BIBLE: **2 Thessalonians, Colossians, Ephesians; 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus**

BROWN: Chapters 25–31; POWELL: Chapters 16, 18, 20, 21; RALPH: Chapters 16–21

Reflection Paper, due March 4: on **Col 1, or Eph 4, or 1 Tim 3–4, or 2 Tim 2, or Titus 1–2**

March 18: *Hebrews & Catholic Epistles*

BIBLE: **Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 & 2 & 3 John, Jude**

BROWN: Chapters 12-14, 32–36; POWELL: Chapters 23-28; RALPH: Chapters 22–27

Reflection Paper, due April 1: on **Heb 12, or James 5, or 1 Peter 4, or 3 John, or Jude**

April 29: *Book of Revelation*

BIBLE: **The Book of Revelation**

BROWN: Chapter 37; POWELL: Glossary; RALPH: Chapter 28

Reflection Paper, due May 13: on **Rev 2, or Rev 4–5, or Rev 18, or Rev 21**

JUNE 3: *New Testament Theologies & Early Christian Writings*

EARLY CHRISTIAN TEXTS: *selections will be handed out in April*

BROWN: *reread* Chapters 1–3; also read Appendices I & II (pp. 817-840)

POWELL: Chapters; RALPH: Epilogue (pp. 324-336)

Year-end Reflection Paper, due June 17 – *see separate instruction page*