

## Syllabus for Novitiate Course on Scripture

These topics are presented with the intention of bringing the novice(s) into a general knowledge of Sacred Scripture. While providing a basic academic knowledge of Scriptural hermeneutics and an overview of the traditions comprising the Bible, these studies also form the basis for *lectio divina*. Some of the resources listed may be better used by the novice master alone who can use them as a resource in the application of any given topic.

### Topics

1. Introduction to Scripture
2. Old Testament
3. New Testament
4. Relation of Scripture Study to Monastic Practices

### **A Basic Bibliography**

- Anderson, Bernhard W. *Out of the Depths: The Psalms Speak for Us Today*, 3rd edition, revised by Steven Bishop. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.
- Anderson, Bernhard W. *Understanding the Old Testament*, 5th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007.
- Boadt, Lawrence. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*, 2nd edition, revised by Richard J. Clifford and Daniel J. Harrington. New York: Paulist Press, 2012.
- Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.
- Daniel-Rops, Henri. *Daily Life in the Time of Jesus*. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Books, 1980.
- Harrington, Daniel J., S.J. *Sacra Pagina* (18 volumes). Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press.
- Heschel, Abraham Joshua. *The Prophets*. New York: Harper & Row, 1962.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1986.
- New Jerome Biblical Commentary, The*, edited by Brown, Fitzmyer, and Murphy. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990.
- Synopsis of the Four Gospels*, edited by Kurt Aland. United Bible Societies, 1982.

### **General Course Outline**

#### **1. Introduction to Scripture**

- a. What is Revelation? What is the Bible?
- b. Origin of the Scriptures
- c. Inspiration and Inerrancy
- d. The senses of Scripture

#### **2. Old Testament**

- a. History of Israel
- b. Pentateuch
- c. Introduction to the Prophets

d. Wisdom Literature

*Seek to understand the relationship between God and Israel, God and the monastic community.*

e. Psalms

i. Hebrew poetry

ii. Types of Psalms:

1. Praise, thanks, lament, historical, cursing (imprecatory)
2. Historical and practical understanding of the Psalms

### 3. New Testament

a. Divisions:

i. Gospels and Acts

ii. Epistles

iii. Revelation

b. Development of the Gospels: Three Stages

c. Authorship

### 4. Relation to Scripture Study to Monastic Practices

a. Lectio divina

b. Liturgy:

i. Use in *Lectionary for Mass*

ii. Use in Vigils/Office of Readings

### Additional Resources

#### General

*Anchor Bible, the* (44 volumes), edited by Albright and Freedman. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company.

Grant, Robert M. *A Short History of the Interpretation of the Bible*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1984.

*Oxford Concise Concordance to the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible, the*, compiled by Metzger and Metzger. New York: Oxford University Press, 1962.

*Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* (12 volumes), edited by Thomas Oden. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

#### Old Testament

*History of the Jewish People, a*, edited by J. J. Ben-Sasson. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1994.

Kigel, James L. *The Bible as It Was*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 1998.

Miller, Patrick D. *They Cried to the Lord: The Form and Theology of Biblical Prayer*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1994.

Vaux, Roland de, O.P. *Ancient Israel: Its Life and Institutions*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1961.

### New Testament

Brown, Raymond E. *The Birth of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Infancy Narratives in Matthew and Luke*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1977.

Brown, Raymond E. *The Death of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Passion Narratives in the Four Gospels* (2 volumes). New York: Doubleday, 1994.

Childs, Brevard S. *The New Testament as Canon: An Introduction*. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1994.

Collins, Raymond F. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1987.

Dunn, James D. G. *Jesus, Paul and the Law: Studies in Mark and Galatians*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1990.

Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*. Fortress Press, 1969.

*Writings of St. Paul, the*, edited by Wayne A. Meeks. New York: Norton & Company, 1972.

Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome, O.P. *Paul: A Critical Life*. Oxford University Press, 1996.

### Introduction to Feminist Hermeneutics

Johnson, Elizabeth A. *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*. New York: Crossroad, 1995.

*Searching the Scriptures: A Feminist Introduction* (2 volumes), edited by Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1997.

### For Reference

*Greek-English New Testament*, third edition, edited by Aland and Aland. Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1986.

*New Century Bible Commentary* (40 volumes), edited by Clements and Black. Grand Rapids, MI: Marshall Pickering.

*Harper's Bible Dictionary*. Paul J. Achtemeier, general editor. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row, 1971.

*Exhaustive Concordance (NRSV)*, Bruce M. Metzger, editorial consultant. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1991.

*New Catholic Commentary on Holy Scripture, a*, edited by Reginald C. Fuller. New Jersey: Nelson, 1969.

*Collegeville Bible Commentary, the*, edited by Bergant and Karris. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1989.

*Oxford Companion to the Bible, the*, edited by Metzger and Coogan. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

*Gospel Parallels: A Synopsis of the First Three Gospels*, edited by Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr. Nashville/New York: Thomas Nelson, 1967.

*Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford University Press, 1997.

### Works to Aid Biblical Contemplation (a bibliography to form a reflective, prayerful, and multidimensional understanding of Scripture)

*Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblical Theology, the*, edited by Carroll Stuhlmueller, et al. Bangalore: Theological Publications in India, 2005.

- Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World*, edited by Bowersock, Brown, and Grabar.  
Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 1999.
- Magrassi, Mariano. *Praying the Bible: An Introduction to Lectio Divina*. Collegeville, MN:  
Liturgical Press, 1998.
- Oxford History of the Biblical World, the*, edited by Michael D Coogan. Oxford University Press,  
1998.
- Patella, Michael, O.S.B. *Word and Image: The Hermeneutics of the Saint John's Bible*.  
Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2013
- Pennington, M. Basil. *Lectio Divina: Renewing the Ancient Practice of Praying the Scriptures*.  
New York, NY: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1998.
- Saint John's Bible, the* (volumes 1-7). Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press.
- Sink, Susan. *The Art of the Saint John's Bible*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007.
- Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, the* (volumes 1-3), translated and edited by M. F. Toal.  
London: Longmans, Green and Co, 1958.