

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

MAY/JUNE 2007 SESSION OF ASSESSMENTS

FDT 4710 Christology and Mariology

Monday 28 May 2007

09.15-12.15

Choose either Option A or Option B.

Option A

1. Either (a) The Marian dogmas as well as magisterial teaching about Mary have Christological pronouncements as their foundation. Elaborate in detail.
- Or (b) From the point of view of theological reflection, it can be said that the film *The Passion of the Christ* (Mel Gibson, 2004) poignantly highlights the convergence among these themes: the prophetic gestures of Jesus in the "upper room"; the atonement accomplished in the Calvary event and in the Resurrection; and the role of Mary in her Son's redemptive action. Elaborate upon this theological convergence.
- Or (c) Write detailed abstracts about two theological works you have read: one on Christology, and one on Mariology. Give reasons for your choice.

Option B

2. Either (a) One of the laudable contributions of Hans Urs von Balthasar to theology is the way he presents the paschal mystery. Describe his presentation of the mystery.
- Or (b) "Jesus did not work by words alone, but with actions. He did more than talk; he did things" (Walter Kasper, *Jesus the Christ*, p.89). Explain how the Kingdom of God was proclaimed by words and deeds. In your opinion which of the two was more effective? Discuss.
- Or (c) In which ways did Jesus shock his contemporaries? How and why did he leave such a great impression upon them? Does this have any bearing on his ultimate destiny? Elaborate.
3. Either (a) Explain why the context leading to and experienced at the Council of Ephesus lies at the other end of the spectrum of the context leading to the Council of Chalcedon and the latter's teachings. Give the more important contributions of one of these ecumenical councils to Christology.
- Or (b) Describe the significance of these christological titles: Son of Man; the Prophet; Messiah; Son of David. If you were entrusted with the catechesis of a catechumen, which of these titles *or* which other title would you emphasise most when talking about Jesus Christ? Why? (Turn over)

4. Either (a) From time immemorial, Mary has been called by Christians "ark of the new covenant". Explain the theological significance of this title.
- Or (b) Mary is the Virgin Mother of God. Different Church Fathers and ecclesiastical authors have distinguished virginity *before* birth, *during* birth and *after* birth. Theologically which is fundamental with regard to Christology? Why? Highlight the main pronouncements of the Magisterium on Mary's virginal maternity.
- Or (c) Mary already shares in the glory of Christ's resurrection by anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body. Discuss the theological implications of this statement. How did the Church's teaching gradually develop regarding this important truth?