

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY
FINAL EXAMINATIONS – JUNE 2007
S.Th.B. COURSE

PAPER I

Friday 8 June 2007

9.15a.m. – 12.15p.m.

Answer ONE question.

*A copy of the Bible is being provided by the University.
This is to be returned at the end of the examination.*

1. Matthew presents Jesus as the new Moses, Luke presents him as a prophet, the prologue of John and some of the Christological hymns in Paul's letters present him in the light of the personification of Wisdom in the Old Testament. Discuss, giving ample space to the Old Testament presentation of Moses, the prophets, and personified Wisdom.
2. How would you show that the Gospel of the Cross was as relevant to the Synoptic evangelists as to the Apostle Paul?
3. In Deut 18,18-19 God declares to Moses: "I will raise up for them, from the midst of their kinsmen, a prophet like you: I will put my words in his mouth and he will say to them everything that I will command him to say. If a man does not listen to my words which this prophet will have pronounced in my name, I myself will call him to account". God will thus raise up for his people, at some future date, a prophet like Moses who will have for a mission to transmit to men and women His own words. The people in turn must obey everything the prophet will say in God's name: for them it is a question of life or death. Show that this text holds an essential place in the Gospel of John since it governs most of its Christology.

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PAPER II

Tuesday 12 June 2007

9.15a.m. – 12.15p.m.

Answer ONE question.

1. “Anthropologists classify the Christian sacraments among the forms of expression of religious feeling and experience. The sacraments are situated in the *ritual sphere* of humanity. A theology of the sacraments presupposes a fundamental theology about God’s revelation. Western sacramental theology has developed in close affiliation with Christology” (Lambert Leijssen, *With the Silent Glimmer of God’s Spirit*, 2007, vii).
Discuss this statement while explaining how and why the sacraments are actions of Christ and the Church. Elaborate upon the liberating power of the paschal mystery which is effectively communicated to the faithful through the sacraments.
2. “The Church is not to be deduced from her organization; the organization is to be understood from the Church. But at the same time it is clear that for the visible Church, visible unity is more than ‘organization’. The concrete unity of the common faith testifying to itself in the Word and of the common table of Jesus Christ is an essential part of the sign that the Church is to erect in the world” (Joseph Ratzinger, *Introduction to Christianity*).
Write a theological essay highlighting how the mystery of the Church in the world is manifested visibly in the way it is organized.
3. “In the human nature united to himself, the Son of God, by overcoming death through his own death and resurrection, redeemed man and changed him into a new creation. For by communicating his Spirit, Christ mystically constitutes as his body those brothers and sisters of his who are called together from every nation. In that body *the life of Christ* is communicated to those who believe...” (*Lumen Gentium*, 1964, para. 7).
 - (a) Discuss this conciliar text by highlighting the interconnection among the various theological themes you identify in it.
 - (b) Explain how “the life of Christ is communicated” and experienced by (i) his mother Mary, (ii) ordained ministers, and (iii) the lay faithful.