

## STM Sophomore Theology: Summer Meditation 2017

### *A Father Who Keeps His Promises*, by Scott Hahn

This summer, you are assigned to read Scott Hahn's *A Father Who Keeps His Promises*. You can order this book for free (cost of shipping) on <https://cart.dynamiccatholic.com/>

As you read this book, create an outline or notes that capture the main points from each chapter. You will submit these thirteen outlines/notes to me via e-mail: [TKronholz@hs-stm.org](mailto:TKronholz@hs-stm.org)

This assignment is due by the first day of school at 8:00 a.m.

Each student's outline will have its own style, but will minimally look something like this example:

#### **Chapter Four of *Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich:**

- Julian of Norwich is about to die, as told in chapter three
- Julian suddenly has a vision of Christ crowned with thorns upon the cross
- She realizes that God Himself showed her this vision
- She acknowledges that Christ is both God and man, and has chosen to suffer for her
- Julian understands that this vision of the Crucifixion is to be a strength for her- as a defense against all the evil that will attack her throughout her life
- She also sees that nothing created is higher than Mary (except for Christ's Humanity) as she is the Mother of God. Julian also says that Mary was the most humble of all women.
- It is implied that Christ is the highest, yet most humble, of all men.
- Summary: Julian's first vision of the crucifixion and crowning of thorns reveals to her some of the basic truths about Christianity: The Trinity, Christ's dual natures, the exalted status of Mary. Moreover, this vision is given to her in order to strengthen her in her own spiritual battle throughout life.
  - (Note: This is a very short chapter, yours should be longer)

*Secondly:* During the first week of class, you will write a major essay summarizing the main theme of the book—the covenants between God and man. You will not be able to use your outlines/notes during the in-class essay, but they will help you study and remember the main points of the book. By summarizing the book in outline/note form, you will be able to condense the entire story of the Old Testament into main points, which you will be able to quickly memorize. This is to be a template for all of your future studies.

Lastly, enjoy reading the book, and meditating on God's creative love. If you have any questions, feel free to email me. Have a good summer vacation.

## Junior Theology SUMMER READING

Dear Sophomore (soon to be Juniors):

In preparation for Junior theology next year, I would like you to read some important books of the New Testament. The Junior year of theology concentrates on the church, its history and theology (ecclesiology). Throughout the year we will be studying the books of the Bible listed below as sources of the Catholic Faith. The three important books of the New Testament are:

- 1) The Gospel of John (21 chapters)
- 2) The Book of Acts (28 chapters)
- 3) The Letter to the Ephesians (6 chapters)

To complete this summer assignment, read a chapter of the Bible everyday to get into the habit of reading God's sacred word daily. In the first few days of school in the Fall we will be discussing these chapters and writing some summaries of what you have read. It would be a good idea to take notes on these books that you can use to write those summaries.

Some chapters are important enough to commit to memory so that you can discuss their contents off the top of your head. You don't have memorize the chapter but you should be able to recount its general contents.

*Gospel of John*: chapters 1, 3, 6, 8,10, 14-17, 19

*The Book of Acts*: you can read this book more quickly than the others. Make sure you remember the contents of chapter 2, 6, 9, 13, 15

*Letter to the Ephesians*: Read and know the contents of each 6 chapters. Important!

See you in the Fall,

Dr. Howell

### **Senior Honors Theology**

The purpose of Senior Honors Theology is to introduce the student to philosophical and theological work at a collegiate level through a series of readings, discussions, and writing projects which will prepare the student for higher level work in philosophy and theology as well as developing thinking and writing skills applicable to many areas of future study. A person typically progresses in these subjects not by the constant addition of more information but by a process of deepening one's thinking about foundational questions.

Foundational questions tend to be more difficult to answer than the questions posed by the empirical sciences but are also more important and life-altering. Those questions, long discussed in the history of philosophy, include:

- 1) What is Real? (Ontology)
- 2) How does one discover what is true and false? (Epistemology)
- 3) What is Nature of Good and Evil? (Ethics/Morality)
- 4) How does a human being find fulfillment (*eudaimonia*)? (Spirituality)

### Attention Future Students in Honors Theology: Summer Reading Assignment

You should purchase Maria Boulding's translation of St. Augustine's *Confessions*, one of the greatest classics of Catholic culture ever written. Please read books 1-10 of the *Confessions* by the first day of class in the Fall. As you read you may want to take notes, either in ink or in your memory. The goal of this reading is to *retain* the magnificent story of Augustine's life. The four kinds of questions mentioned above are all addressed in this great work.