

Course III. The Mission of Jesus Christ (*The Paschal Mystery*)

		CONFORMITY YES/NO/PARTIAL	REQUIRED CHANGES Recommendations and Suggestions
1.	I. The Goodness of Creation and Our Fall from Grace A. The Creation of the World and our first parents (CCC, nos. 54, 279-282). 1. Revelation as found in the book of Genesis.		
2.	a. Understanding literary forms in Scripture (CCC, no. 289).		
3.	b. Genesis 1–11 conveys religious truth rather than science (CCC, nos. 283-289). c. The book reveals truth about which science and history can only speculate.		
4.	d. Scripture’s use of figurative and symbolic language in Genesis 1–11 (CCC, nos. 362, 375, 390, 396).		
5.	2. The Trinitarian God is the Creator of all; all creation reflects the glory of God (CCC, nos. 290-295, 301).		
6.	3. God created all that is, seen and unseen. a. Unseen or invisible world: angels (CCC, nos. 325-336). b. Seen or visible world (CCC, nos. 349-357).		
7.	4. Human beings as the summit of creation. a. Created in the image and likeness of God (CCC, nos. 356-359, 1700-1706).		
8.	1) God made them male and female (CCC, nos. 369-373, 1605, 1702, 2331). 2) Dignity of both men and women: similarities and differences (CCC, nos. 2333-2336).		
9.	3) Contributions to the world and to the Church (CCC, nos. 2346-2347).		
10.	b. Human persons are a body-soul unity; this reflects the physical and spiritual realities in the world (CCC, nos. 356-368).		
11.	5. God’s plan: original holiness and original justice (CCC, nos. 374-379).		
12.	B. The fall from grace: Original Sin (Gn 3; Rom 5:12; CCC, nos. 55, 309-314, 385-390, 1707). 1. The full meaning of the doctrine of Original Sin is revealed only in the light of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. It is essential to belief in the mystery of Christ. The whole of human history is marked by the sin of the first parents (CCC, no. 1708).		
13.	2. The fall of the angels (CCC, nos. 391-395).		
14.	3. The rebellion of Adam and Eve and its consequences.		

	a. The rebellion of Adam and Eve was a sin of disobedience toward God, a rejection of a God-centered life and the choice of a self-centered life (CCC, nos. 396-398).		
15.	b. The consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin: loss of paradise, original grace, original holiness, and original justice (CCC, nos. 399-401).		
16.	c. Original Sin and its consequences for all: suffering, death, a tendency toward sin, need for salvation (CCC, nos. 402-409).		
17.	II. The Promise of a Messiah A. The first prophecy of the Messiah, God’s promise to redeem the world (Gn 3:15; CCC, no. 410). 1. God’s immediate response to Adam and Eve’s sin is to promise redemption; this is the <i>Proto-Evangelium</i> , the first announcement of the Good News (CCC, nos. 410-412).		
18.	2. Promise endures despite the escalation of sin (the Book of Genesis: the murder of Abel, the Tower of Babel, the Flood) (CCC, nos. 55-64).		
19.	B. Longing for the fulfillment of the promise (CCC, nos. 121-123). 1. God’s covenants with Old Testament peoples (CCC, nos. 129-130). a. The covenants are solemn commitments between God and human beings (CCC, no. 56).		
20.	b. God made a covenant with Noah, with Abraham, and with Moses (CCC, nos. 56-64).		
21.	c. Each of these covenants foreshadows the Paschal Mystery (CCC, no. 129).		
22.	2. The people of ancient Israel entrusted with knowledge of God’s promise.		
23.	3. Judges, kings, and prophets: reminding the people of ancient Israel about the promise.		
24.	4. The promise to David.		
25.	5. The “suffering servant” passages in Isaiah.		
26.	C. The promise of redemption is fulfilled in Jesus (CCC, nos. 422-451). 1. The Gospels recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise.		
27.	a. The Annunciation: Mary’s “yes” to God, her consent to be the Mother of God (<i>Theotokos</i>) (Lk 1:38; CCC, nos. 484-489).		
28.	b. The dream of St. Joseph; the role of St. Joseph in the life of Jesus and Mary (CCC, nos. 496-507).		
29.	c. The Gospels apply the ancient prophesies to Jesus (CCC, nos. 522-524).		

30.	2. Why the Word became flesh (the Incarnation) (CCC, nos. 525-528, 456-478). a. To save us by reconciling us with God, who loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins (CCC, no. 457).		
31.	b. That we might come to know the depth of God's love for us (CCC, no. 458).		
32.	c. To be our model of holiness (CCC, no. 459).		
33.	d. To make us partakers of the divine nature (CCC, nos. 457-460).		
34.	e. To destroy the power of the Devil (1 Jn 3:8).		
35.	3. Christ's whole life was a mystery of redemption (CCC, nos. 535-618). a. By becoming poor he enriched us with his poverty.		
36.	b. In his hidden life his obedience atoned for our disobedience.		
37.	c. In his preached word he purified our consciences.		
38.	d. In his compassion and in his healings and exorcisms he bore our infirmities.		
39.	e. In his Cross and Resurrection he justified us (CCC, no. 517).		
40.	4. Christ's whole earthly life—words, deeds, silences, sufferings—is a Revelation of the Father. Even the least characteristics of the mysteries of Jesus' life manifest God's love among us (CCC, no. 516).		
41.	III. Christ Our Light: Redemption Unfolds A. The Baptism of Jesus and Jesus' triple temptation (CCC, nos. 538-540).		
42.	B. The miracle at the wedding feast of Cana (CCC, no. 2618). The announcement of the Kingdom through parables and miracles (CCC, nos. 541-550).		
43.	C. The announcement of the Kingdom through parables and miracles (CCC, nos. 541-550).		
44.	D. Transfiguration at Mount Tabor (CCC, nos. 554-556).		
45.	E. Jesus institutes the Sacrament of the Eucharist (CCC, nos. 611, 1337-1344).		
46.	IV. Redemption Through the Paschal Mystery A. The Passion and Death of Jesus (CCC, nos. 595-618). 1. The mystery of redemptive love and suffering on the cross.		
47.	a. Overcoming temptation by Satan.		
48.	b. Events of the Passion . . . the Suffering Servant.		
49.	c. The Kenosis: Philippians 2:5-11.		

50.	B. The Resurrection of Jesus: redemption accomplished and the promise fulfilled (CCC, nos. 631-658). 1. A historical event involving Christ's physical body. a. Testified to by those who saw the Risen Jesus. b. Verified by the empty tomb.		
51.	2. A transcendent event in which Jesus is no longer bound by space and time. a. The Resurrection is not a resuscitation or a return to earthly life.		
52.	3. The significance of Christ's Resurrection. a. Confirmation of Jesus' divinity and of his words and teachings (CCC, nos. 651, 653).		
53.	b. Fulfillment of the promises in the Old Testament and of Jesus' earthly promises (CCC, no. 652).		
54.	c. A promise of our own resurrection (1 Cor 15).		
55.	4. We participate in the mystery of redemption through the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Holy Eucharist.		
56.	C. The Ascension and glorification of Jesus culminating in the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (CCC, nos. 659-667). 1. The Ascension marks the entrance of Jesus' humanity into heaven (CCC, no. 659).		
57.	2. Jesus' promise to be with us forever (Mt 28:20); the sending of the Holy Spirit as part of the promise.		
58.	3. Where Jesus has gone, we hope to follow; Mary, through her Assumption into heaven body and soul, is an anticipation of the resurrection of others who will follow (CCC, nos. 963-970).		
59.	V. Moral Implications for the Life of a Believer A. Christ was put to death for our sins and was raised for our justification (Rom 4:25; CCC, no. 598).		
60.	1. Eternal life with God in heaven is God's desire for us (CCC, nos. 1691-1698).		
61.	2. We need to accept and live the grace of redemption (CCC, no. 1803). a. By practicing the virtues of faith, hope, and love (CCC, nos. 1812-1832).		
62.	b. By praying for the coming of the Kingdom of God and by working toward that goal.		
63.	3. Death and our judgment by God (CCC, nos. 678-679, 1006-1014). a. Immediate or particular judgment (CCC, no. 1021).		
64.	b. The resurrection of the body and the Last Judgment (CCC, nos. 988-1004).		
65.	c. Heaven, hell, purgatory (CCC, nos. 1023-1037).		

66.	B. Universal call to holiness of life (CCC, nos. 826, 2012-2014, 2028, 2045, 2813).		
67.	1. We are made in the image of God: intellect and free will (CCC, nos. 1703-1706).		
68.	2. Personal response to God's call is shown in our way of life (CCC, no. 2002).		
69.	3. Holy Spirit and grace enable us to live holiness of life (CCC, no. 1704).		
70.	4. Essential elements of a life growing in holiness: interiority or reflection, self-examination, and introspection (CCC, no. 1779).		
71.	5. We grow in holiness of life in and through the Church (CCC, no. 2045).		
72.	C. Living as a disciple of Jesus. 1. Adherence to Jesus and acceptance of his teaching (CCC, nos. 520, 618, 767, 1693).		
73.	2. Conversion of heart and life, and the formation of conscience (CCC, no. 1248).		
74.	3. Worshiping and loving God as Jesus taught (CCC, nos. 618, 767).		
75.	4. Living a sacramental life and a life of prayer (CCC, nos. 562, 915, 1816, 1823, 1986, 2262, 2347, 2427, 2466, 2612).		
76.	5. Putting Jesus' moral and spiritual teaching into practice.		
77.	6. Serving the poor and marginalized.		
78.	7. Fulfilling responsibility for the mission of evangelization.		
79.	8. Fulfilling responsibility for stewardship.		
80.	VI. Prayer in the Life of a Believer A. God calls every individual to a vital relationship with him experienced in prayer (CCC, no. 2558).		
81.	B. Developing intimacy and communion with Jesus Christ through prayer is an essential aspect in the life of a believer or disciple (CT, no. 5; GDC, no. 80; NDC, §19B; CCC, no. 2560).		
82.	C. Scripture is a source and guide for prayer (CCC, nos. 2567-2589, 2653-2654). 1. Scripture is a source, in that many prayers come out of the Bible or are partly based on Scriptural passages or events: Mass prayers and dialogues, psalms and canticles, Our Father, Hail Mary, <i>Angelus</i> (CCC, nos. 2673-2679).		
83.	2. Scripture is a guide, in that it gives us models of praying in biblical figures and teaches us about prayer.		
84.	3. <i>Lectio divina</i> is a way of praying on the Word of God.		
85.	D. Expressions of prayer can be vocal, meditative, or contemplative (CCC, nos. 2700-2724).		

86.	E. The forms of prayer are blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise (CCC, nos. 2626-2649).		
87.	F. Prayer requires effort and commitment (CCC, nos. 2729-2745).		
88.	G. The Lord's Prayer forms a basis for the Church's understanding of the value of prayer (CCC, nos. 2759-2865).		
89.	VII. Challenges A. Why would God the Father allow his Son, Jesus, to suffer and die the way he did (CCC, nos. 599-609)? 1. God the Father allowed Jesus Christ, his Son, to suffer and die the way he did because of his love for all human beings; in that love, he wants us to live eternally with him in heaven. His Passion reveals the depth of the Father's love in helping all people to not be overcome by the magnitude of evil, sin, and death.		
90.	2. Because of Adam and Eve's sin, all human beings are born with a wounded human nature due to the absence of the life of Christ's grace, and so we could not live eternally with God unless we were redeemed (CCC, nos. 402-406).		
91.	3. God the Father allowed his Son, Jesus, to suffer and die because Jesus' sacrifice destroyed the power of sin and restored us to friendship with God.		
92.	4. In part, the Father allowed Jesus to suffer and die the way he did in order to show us the gravity and seriousness of sin.		
93.	B. Why are followers of Jesus Christ sometimes so willing to make sacrifices and to accept pain and suffering, especially in witness to Christ and their faith? 1. Christians are willing to make sacrifices and undergo suffering patiently for a number of reasons. a. They are following the example of Jesus Christ, who through his suffering and Death gained salvation for us (CCC, no. 1505).		
94.	b. Jesus Christ also predicted that people would suffer for their faith and promised that he would be with them in their suffering. Knowing this, believers try to accept suffering patiently, to trust in God, and to pray for his grace to sustain them. They rely on the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude to grow in the virtue of fortitude (CCC, nos. 1808, 1831).		
95.	c. Followers of Jesus Christ know that suffering is never in vain because it can help one move toward Heaven and eternal life. In our suffering, we can help make up to some degree for the hurt and harm we cause by our sin.		

96.	d. Finally, the suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus teaches us to look beyond the sufferings of this world to the promise of eternal life with God in heaven (CCC, no. 1521).		
97.	2. Christ strengthens the person to undergo suffering and thereby become more like Christ himself. Our suffering, when united with his own, can become a means of purification and of salvation for us and for others (CCC, nos. 618, 1505).		
98.	C. Isn't making sacrifices and putting up with suffering a sign of weakness (CCC, nos. 1808, 1831)? 1. No. Making sacrifices and putting up with suffering requires a great deal of courage and strength. Jesus teaches us, by example, about the value of unselfish living and the courage and strength that requires. It takes grace and personal holiness to live as Jesus Christ has taught us.		
99.	2. Jesus shows us through the whole Paschal Mystery (suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension) that giving of ourselves is the path to eternal life and happiness (CCC, nos. 571-655). 3. He gives us the example of accepting the Father's will even when it involves suffering.		
100.	4. Jesus teaches us both in word and by example to refrain from revenge and to forgive those who hurt or sin against us (CCC, nos. 2842-2845).		
101.	5. Suffering is necessary to develop our maturity in Christ and to love our neighbor as Christ loves him (Col 1:24; CCC, nos. 1808, 1831).		
102.	D. In the end, isn't it really only the final result that matters? 1. No. Every moral choice that a person makes has an effect on the person and society (CCC, nos. 1749-1756).		
103.	2. A good end never justifies an evil means (CCC, no. 1753). 3. One must never do evil just so that good may come of it (CCC, no. 1789).		