

Diocesan Theological Institute

“Christian Friendship”

Preview Sheet

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Class Dates 2017: September 30, October 7, October 14, October 21

Classes are held 9:00AM-12:00PM at the Diocesan Administration Building, 555 Colman Center Drive, Rockford, IL 61125.

Each class will look at different aspects of friendship from a historical, theological and experiential perspective. We will begin by coming to an understanding of the various meanings of the terms “friendship” and “friend.” Likewise, we will look at the unique qualities that make friendship to be what it is. From here we will look at it as a particular form of love.

Building upon this foundational understanding, we will begin an examination of the concept of friendship in Scripture and the ways in which it is used especially in the New Testament.

The remaining classes will be spent looking at the Christian understanding of friendship as it has been lived and experienced by several prominent saints throughout the centuries. Finally, the relationship between growth in holiness and friendship will be highlighted.

Class discussion will be encouraged and expected. Each session will also include reading assignments distributed in class. A written assignment will be given in the last class.

Class I – September 30th, 2017

Our first class will be spent on much of the necessary background information and understanding of friendship as a particular form of love. Reading materials will include excerpts from, C.S. Lewis’ *The Four Loves*.

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Class II – October 7th, 2017

Our second class will begin looking at friendship from a scriptural and theological viewpoint. Topics will include looking at friendship as a form of Christian love and its relationship to holiness. Friendship with God and friendship with others. Reading materials will include, *Deus Caritas Est*.

Class III – October 14th, 2017

The third class will include selections from the saints as to their understanding of friendship. We will look at examples from Augustine, Aelred and Aquinas among others. The lives of selected saints and the relationships between them will begin to be discussed.

Class IV – October 21st, 2017

Our fourth and final class will look at further selections from the lives of the saints as time permits. As well as a discussion of the particular challenges they faced with the help of their friends.

Required Books: None (Reading distributed in class)

Recommended Books:

The Four Loves, C.S. Lewis, HarperOne, 1960

Saintly Companions, Vincent J. O'Malley, CM, Alba House, 1995

Friendship and the Moral Life, Paul J. Wadell, C.P., University of Notre Dame Press, 1989

Becoming Friends, Paul J. Wadell, Brazos Press, 2002

Other Selves: Philosophers on Friendship, Michael Pakaluk, ed., Hackett Publishing, 1991.