

## Preparation for the Lectio Coram

### Timeline for composing lectio coram topics.

#### *Picking topics*

1. In your first semester try to determine how you might like to choose topics for the *Lectio coram*. It is wise to pick topics for which you could write papers for classes. It is wise to pick topics that you believe will be helpful to you in your future work as evangelists.
  - a. You may want to cluster your topics around one or several themes, again, themes that may help you in future work. If you know you will be working with an apostolate to the family, for example, you may want several of the topics to deal with the family from different perspectives.
  - b. You may want to broaden your base of knowledge and thus might want to do considerably diverse topics.
  - c. Since this is a pastoral program, you should be trying to blend the theoretical with the practical.
2. As you work out your topics, you may want to seek advice from the lectio coordinator or any STL faculty member.
3. Since an STL degree qualifies you to teach in a seminary, you should be prepared to present topics with a sophistication appropriate to that level.

#### **General advice about the bibliography:**

1. When composing a bibliography you can benefit from consulting the most recent scholarly sources as a guide: the bibliographies of those sources will generally list the most authoritative sources, both historically and recently.
2. If you are having trouble determining if your sources are worthy of attention, once you have compiled a list, send them to the faculty member who has most knowledge in that area. You should have done considerable work yourself. If you truly don't know how to begin, you could ask a faculty member for direction on how to begin, but do not ask for a bibliography. Part of the purpose of a lectio is to sharpen your scholarly skills.
3. Be consistent in formatting the alphabetized bibliography.
4. In your bibliography, list only works that you have read or significantly consulted in the preparation of your topic. Do not simply list works that are well-known in or seem related to your topic unless you have actually made use of them. Examiners may ask you to discuss any works listed in your bibliography.
5. Do not list large collections of works unless you have made use of all or most of the collection. Do not simply list, for example, "Documents of Vatican II" or "The Bible". Identify specifically which work(s) of Vatican II you have drawn on or which book(s) of the Bible you used in the development of your topic.
6. Do not list the first 5-8 alphabetical sources that you find. That is, we expect to find some sources from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the alphabet, and even towards the end.

7. Nature of sources
  - a. For the most part sources should be scholarly: that is, books published by an academic press or articles published in academic journals.
  - b. Some of these may appear on the internet and it is fine to use those as sources if they have been published by academic publishers or if the author is a known expert in the field.
  - c. In most fields there are authoritative books or articles that simply must be cited. In many fields citing the most up to date books is important.
  - d. Some “popular” works have assumed an important status and they may be used.
  - e. Be consistent in the annotation of the sources: either use full sentences or do not.
8. When citing official ecclesiastical documents, provide first an official citation to the work in question, and then list what version or translation of the work you used, if different from the original. Official citations for most universal ecclesiastical documents will be to the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*, for example, or, for American Catholic documents, to *Origins*, and so on.

### **Submitting Proposed Topics**

1. First submit your topics and annotated bibliography to the coordinator in a polished, not draft, form. The committee meets once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Try to get your topics to the coordinator at least 2 weeks before the faculty meeting at which you would like your topics to be considered.
2. The coordinator will make comments in a “track changes” format. After your draft (polished draft!) is returned, make your changes in another color and return the proposal to the coordinator. It is important that the coordinator be able to find your changes quickly and not have to reread the entire proposal. There may be several such exchanges, but one may be sufficient.
3. The coordinator is not responsible for approving the topics or finding all errors or inadequacies. Members of the committee may want a topic or topics refined, they may find more errors and may find some bibliographies inadequate.
4. When the director indicates that the *lectio coram* topics are sufficiently ready, submit them to the Director of the STL.

### **Format for Lectio Coram Proposal**

[The STL Assistant has several sample copies of prior accepted lectio coram proposals and would be happy to share them with you.]

Your Name

Part I: List of 10 topics, topics only, in this order:

Thesis Topic

1.

Moral Topic

2.

Scriptural Topics

3.

4.

5.

Dogmatic Theology

6.

7.

8.

Additional

9.

10.

Part II. List of Lectio topics in the same order as above with annotated bibliography.