

Vita Consecrata Institute MP3 files
Available for Downloading via DROPBOX 2019

(NB: Updated to include Summer 2018 VCI Talks)

2002 Consecration & Contemplation - *Fr. Thomas Dubay, S.M.*

This course presents personal prayer as the soul of consecrated life. It examines the notions of consecration, vocation, virginity and contemplation and how they relate to one another. It is intended to show that the consecrated life is ordered first and foremost to contemplation of Divine things and from the fullness of contemplation a fruitful apostolate flows.

2003 Sacred Scripture and the Consecrated Life - Msgr. James Turro

This course presents an overview of the message of the New Testament and its unifying themes, with special emphasis on the Gospels. It accentuates a spiritual, theological and pastoral reading of the sacred text to underscore themes concerning Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the apostolic mission of the Church.

2004 Introduction to the New Testament - Msgr. James Turro

2004 Freedom, Authority, Leadership and Obedience - *Fr. Thomas Dubay, S.M.*

This course presents the Catholic teaching on the religious vow of obedience. It examines the notions of freedom, authority, leadership and obedience as presented in Scripture and the Catholic tradition. It is intended to convey the pivotal importance of good government and obedience for the successful living of the consecrated life.

2004 Gospel, Community and Religious Life - *Fr. Thomas Dubay, S.M.*

This course presents the Gospel teaching on the common life. It examines various gospel texts and applies them to religious community life. It is intended to convey gospel simplicity to interpersonal relationships in community.

2004 St. Augustine and the Consecrated Life - *Fr. Norbert Wood, O.PRAEM.*

This course examines the ideal of the consecrated life as embodied in the life and teaching of Augustine of Hippo (354-430), the great giant and doctor of the Western Church. Students explore the little known monastic ideal of Augustine, the crucial role it played in his conversion, and its centrality in his life right up to the moment of his death. The course also looks at the key teachings left behind in the writings of Augustine vis-a-vis the consecrated life for both men and women, with special attention given to the corpus which makes up his "Rule."

2005 Freedom, Evangelical Poverty, Frugality - *Fr. Thomas Dubay, S.M.*

This course presents the gospel teaching on poverty. It examines various gospel texts and applies them to the ascetical life of the consecrated person. It also examines the different traditions of living poverty among religious in the history of the Church. It is intended to convey the importance of consecrated poverty in maintaining a spirit of fervor and in the work of renewal in an institute of consecrated life.

2005 Growing the Divine Life within through Spiritual Direction - *Fr. Thomas Dubay, S.M.*

This course provides a guide for pursuing spiritual direction, explaining what spiritual direction is, the qualities of a good spiritual director, the key principles of spiritual direction, discerning progress under spiritual direction, and ways to develop a deeper prayer life and growing appreciation for the consecrated life, with attention to practical problems and applications.

2005 Formation in the Consecrated Life

Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM. and Sr. Vincent Marie Finnegan, O.C.D.

(twenty files, two of them unedited)

This course presents the fundamental principles of formation for the consecrated life. It examines the document, "Directives on Formation in Religious Institutes" from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. It is intended to help superiors and formators better understand the nature and importance of formation and their key role in the process.

2005 Ecclesiology – *Sr. Joseph Marie Ruessman, R.S.M.* (20 lectures, some audio hard to hear)

2006 Theology of the Body for Consecrated Persons - Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.

(ten-lecture course; four files missing)

This course presents the Church's teaching on human sexuality and consecrated virginity. It examines the recent magisterial documents on human sexuality and in particular Pope John Paul II's theology of the body. It also examines the Patristic and Scholastic sources in developing the virtue of chastity and a spirituality of consecrated virginity. It is intended to show that consecrated virginity can only be successfully lived when integrated with a life of asceticism and prayer motivated by Divine charity. (ten-lecture course; four files missing)

2006 Gospel of Life - Sr. Renée Mirkes, O.S.F.

(ten-lecture course; three files missing)

2006 Fostering a Culture of Vocations - Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

This course presents the theology of vocation and the practical means of cultivating and recruiting vocations. It examines vocational cultivation in Sacred Scripture and the Fathers and Doctors of the Church. It also examines modern approaches to cultivating vocations, the qualities and role of vocation recruiters and how to foster and discern the presence of a vocation. It is intended to help superiors, formators and vocation directors to better understand the nature and importance of vocational ministry and how to fulfill it more effectively.

2006 Human Maturity and the Consecrated Life - Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.

This course presents an anthropology of the spiritual life and the psychological aspects of human maturity in the consecrated life. It examines the human person and growth to maturity in the consecrated life as understood by the Church and elucidated by the psychological sciences. It examines the various methods of psychological testing and the uses and abuses of psychology in the consecrated life. It is intended to convey the consecrated life as a way to full human maturity and holiness. It is also intended to show the uses and limits of the psychological sciences in the consecrated life.

2006 Ongoing Conversion and Key Moral Virtues in Religious Life - Fr. Thomas Dubay, S.M.

This course presents some key moral virtues for successful living the consecrated life, including the virtues of prudence, religion, magnanimity, patience and perseverance, etc. and how to develop them in fidelity to a rule of life. It is intended to show that the consecrated life is both a call and a means to heroic virtue.

2007 Deep Conversion and Deep Prayer - Fr. Thomas Dubay, S.M.

This course presents personal prayer as the soul of consecrated life. It examines the notions of radical conversion, degrees of depth of conversion, and the cultivation of genuine love. The course draws from the writings of the great mystical doctors of the Church, Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross.

2007 Liturgy & the Consecrated Life - Fr. Norbert Wood, O.PRAEM.

2008 History of the Consecrated Life - Fr. Norbert Wood, O.PRAEM.

2008 Consecrated Life in Canon Law - Msgr. Charles M. Mangan and Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

This course presents the consecrated life as found in the Code of Canon Law, closely examining the various canons of the Code concerning the consecrated life. It is intended to convey an understanding of the mystery of consecrated life within the context of the Church today. It is also intended to give a juridical understanding of the consecrated life as a basis for understanding and interpreting the proper law of the various institutes of consecrated life.

2008 The Spiritual Doctrine of St. Teresa of Jesus - Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

This course presents the spiritual theology of St. Teresa.

2008 Morals and Psychology - Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.

This course presents the relation of Catholic moral teaching to both normal and abnormal psychology, using the works of Thomas Aquinas and Dr. Conrad Baars.

2008 The New Psychology of Virtue - Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.

2009 Christ, Model of the Consecrated Life - Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.

(twenty-lecture course; six unedited files, one missing file)

This course examined the attributes of Jesus Christ, poor, chaste and obedient, as the model of perfection for all who profess the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

2009 The Consecrated Life and Vatican II - Fr. Basil Cole, O.P.

(19-lecture course; four unedited files)

This course presented a detailed examination of the principal documents of the Second Vatican Council as they pertain the consecrated life, including *Lumen Gentium*, *Gaudium et Spes*, *Perfectae Caritatis*, *Ad Gentes*.

2009 The Spiritual Conferences of St. John Cassian - Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

This course presented the ancient Monastic wisdom of the Desert Fathers as presented in the conferences of St. John Cassian, examining the key texts and drawing from them perennial principles upon which consecrated life is based.

2010 Marian Spirituality and the Consecrated Life

Msgr. Charles Mangan and Fr. Thomas Nelson O.Praem.

This course presents Our Lady as a model and mother of the consecrated person by examining the notion of Marian consecration according to St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe and Pope John Paul II. It establishes the dogmatic foundations for Marian consecration and then develops a Marian spirituality rooted in consecration. It is intended to show that every person is called to live Marian consecration in his or her own tradition.

2010 Spirituality of Priestly and Pastoral Ministry - Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

This course examines the spirituality of priestly and pastoral ministry in the life and mission of the Church. It looks at the three-fold office of Christ as prophet, priest and pastor and how it relates to every baptized person with special emphasis on the ministerial priesthood and active religious called to pastoral ministry.

2010 Discipleship and Pastoral Ministry in the Gospel of Luke

Fr. Sebastian Walshe, O.PRAEM.

This course is an in-depth examination of the Gospel of St. Luke with particular emphasis on Christian discipleship and priesthood and how it relates to pastoral ministry. It provides exegetical and historical analysis of selected passages and illustrates how these relate to the consecrated life and mission.

2011 Theology of the Sacred Heart - Dr. Timothy O'Donnell and Fr. James Kubicki, S.J.

2012 Moral Theology and the Consecrated Life - Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.

(twenty-lecture course; two files have hissing sound)

The general principles of moral theology which are applied to the life of religious, including responsibility, moral norms, passions, law, conscience, virtue and sin.

2012 History of the Consecrated Life - Fr. Norbert Wood, O.PRAEM.

The development of the consecrated life from its Apostolic origins seen in early monastic and Patristic sources, through the history of the Church to the present day.

2012 The Holy Spirit and the Consecrated Life - Rev. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R.

A study of the person of the Holy Spirit: within the Trinity, within the mystery of the Church, and within the consecrated life, as expressed in Scripture, Tradition, and Catholic theology.

2012 Essential Elements of the Consecrated Life - Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

An examination of the elements common to all institutes of consecrated life, namely, the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience; the particular characteristics of each and the virtues associated with them; the unity of them all in the virtues of charity and religion; and the contexts in which the counsels are lived by both religious and secular institutes.

2013 Ecclesiology and the Consecrated Life - Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.

2013 Consecrated Life & Vatican II - Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

2013 Spirituality of St. Therese and Virtue of Faith - Fr. Frederick Miller
(nine-lecture course; three files missing)

2014 Apostolic Life in the Acts of the Apostles - Fr. David Gonzalez, O.PRAEM.

2014 Angelic Spirituality and Consecrated Life - Fr. Basil Nortz, O.R.C.

This course presents an overview of the message of the New Testament and its unifying themes, with special emphasis on the Gospels. It accentuates a spiritual, theological and pastoral reading of the sacred text to underscore themes concerning Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the apostolic mission of the Church.

2014 Vows According to St. Thomas Aquinas - Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.

This course presents the rich scholastic tradition on the consecrated life as presented by St. Thomas Aquinas. It is intended to give a unified theological vision of the nature of consecrated life as it relates to all of theology.

2014 Theology & Spirituality of the New Evangelization - Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

This course develops both a theology and a spirituality of evangelization with particular emphasis on the role of consecrated men and women in the New Evangelization; including the Church's teaching on evangelization in Vatican II's *Ad Gentes*, the various adaptations of the Church's missionary activity over the centuries, and the call to the new evangelization for the Third Christian millennium.

2015 Christian Asceticism Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM

This course studies the ascetical life of penance and self-denial and the necessary role it plays in the Christian life of virtue and prayer. It takes as its primary framework the teaching of St. John of the Cross on the purifications the soul must experience to reach Christian perfection. Within that context the ascetical practices of fasting and vigils, custody of the senses and the disciplining of the passions, and the mortification of the intellect, memory, and will are explained. Lastly, the course looks at the passive dark nights the soul must endure to reach union with God, and the power of redemptive suffering.

2015 The Spiritual Life Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.

This course covers the universal call to holiness, the stages of the spiritual life, the role of Christ and the Church in the spiritual life, the supernatural organism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, personal vocation, and the four essential means to perfection, namely, the sacraments, the life of prayer, self-denial and asceticism, and charity working through the virtues. It also treats the secondary means to Christian perfection.

2015 Canon Law and the Consecrated Life - Abbot Eugene Hayes, O.PRAEM

This course closely examines the various canons of the Code concerning the consecrated life, giving a general juridical understanding of the consecrated life, as a basis for understanding and interpreting the proper laws of various institutes.

2016 History of Consecrated Life Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

An overview of the development of the consecrated life over the centuries showing the Apostolic origins and the growth of consecrated life under the guidance of the Holy Spirit working through founders, saints, and the Magisterium; includes examination of extra-biblical sources with special emphasis on early monastic and Patristic sources.

2016 The Call to Divine Mercy Rev. Sebastian Walshe, O.PRAEM.

This course will study mercy as God's greatest attribute and the foundation of a Christian spiritual life by examining the Gospels, the writings of St. Thomas, as well as the teachings of our recent Popes. It will also show how the consecrated life is both the fruit of Divine Mercy and a principal agent in dispensing God's merciful love to the world.

2016 Morals & Psychology Rev. Brian Mullady, O.P.

This course presents the relation of Catholic moral teaching to both normal and abnormal psychology, utilizing the works of Thomas Aquinas and Dr. Conrad Baars. The material will help students to understand more deeply the formation of virtuous life in relationship to responsible love.

2016: Sacraments in the Spiritual Life Rev. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

This course examines the Sacraments as essential means to Christian perfection, looking at each of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and how they insert one into the Paschal Mystery of the Lord. Also treated are the Sacrament of Penance as a means of overcoming sin and attachments and growing in virtue, and the various Christian states of life as concrete ways of living the universal call to holiness.

2017: Vatican II & the Consecrated Life Fr. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM

This course examines the documents of Vatican II, along with the post-Conciliar teaching on the Consecrated Life, especially that of Pope St. John Paul II, *Redemptionis Donum* and *Vita Consecrata*.

2017: The Virtues in the Spiritual Life Rev. Brian Mullady, O.P.

This course examines the key moral virtues for successful living the consecrated life in general and in particular. These virtues are first summarized in general, then particular virtues are treated such as: prudence, religion, magnanimity, patience and perseverance, etc.—and how to develop them in fidelity to a rule of life. The intention is to show that the consecrated life is both a call and a means to heroic virtue.

2017: Ecclesiology & the Consecrated Life Rt. Rev. Eugene Hayes, O.PRAEM.

This course presents the Ecclesiology of Vatican II, and an examination of the nature of renewal and the ecclesiology of communion. The topics covered serve as basis for developing an ecclesial spirituality that emphasizes the universal call to holiness and the need for all baptized, but especially those in the consecrated life, to participate in the life and mission of the Church.

2017: Scriptural Foundations of the Consecrated Life Rev. Gregory Dick, O.PRAEM.

This course examines the Scriptural foundations of the consecrated life as found in the Gospels and other New Testament writings, especially those of Saint Paul.

2018 The Vows According to St. Thomas - Rev. Brian Mullady, O.P.

This course will present the rich scholastic tradition on the consecrated life as presented by St. Thomas Aquinas, examining questions in the *Summa Theologiae* as well as other works such as *On the Perfection of the Spiritual Life* and the *Contra Retrahentes*.

2018 Christian Prayer and Contemplation - Rev. Thomas Nelson, O.PRAEM.

Prayer is an essential means to Christian perfection. This course will examine the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It will then treat *The Interior Castle* by St. Teresa of Avila and look at mental prayer beginning with meditation and culminating in infused contemplation. It will also illustrate how growth in the spiritual life is effected and manifested by growth in prayer.

2018 Spiritual Direction - Rev. Thomas Acklin, O.S.B. & Rev. Boniface Hicks, O.S.B.

This course will present spiritual direction and how it differs from spiritual accompaniment and psychological counseling. Topics covered include the qualities that should be found in spiritual directors and those directed, the discernment of spirits, and vocational discernment, as well as practical advice.

2018 The Institutes & Conferences of St. John Cassian - Rev. Cassian Folsom, O.S.B.

This course will present the ancient monastic wisdom of the Desert Fathers as presented in the Institutes and Conferences of John Cassian and convey the pristine spirit, fervor, and teaching on the consecrated life.