

CODE: THO 6352	TITLE: Studies in Eastern Christianity The Millenium of the Laity: The Emerging Role of the Laity in the Mission of the Church
CREDITS: 3 cr.	
SESSION: Fall 2008	PROFESSOR: Michael Kwiatkowski

DESCRIPTION	<p>One could arguably suggest that the first Millennium of Christianity was greatly influenced by the zeal and work of individuals and communities that lived various monastic and religious ideals. The Church then grew through its second thousand years by further developing the importance of the hierarchical and clerical roles - especially in the building up of an established ecclesial society. However, while the lessons of the first two millennia must be carried forward, recent developments in the Church and in the world may be suggesting that in the Third Millennium it is now the laity that must wholly come into their own.</p> <p>The important role of the clergy and religious in the life and mission of the Church has in no way diminished, but for various reasons their numbers have diminished. This unsettling development becomes less alarming when we look at the extraordinary contribution that the laity can and must make toward the renewal of the mission of Christ's Church on earth. Historically, a dedicated and competent laity has admirably served the Gospel mandate in areas of Evangelization, social work and even matters of ecclesial governance. This participation of the laity in the mission of the Church has only increased in our day.</p> <p>From the second half of the 20th Century, especially through her canonical legislation, the Church has been laying the groundwork for a surge of lay activity that perhaps has never been seen in the history of Christendom. This course hopes to expound upon the mind and the spirit and the legislation of the Church in this earnest endeavour.</p>
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To remind the student of the great contribution of the laity in the church - To help the student understand the intent and hope of the compilers and legislators of the most recent codification of Eastern canon law (while reviewing other collections of canonical legislation) - To heighten awareness of the almost limitless possibilities where laypersons can contribute to the renewal of the Church
WORKLOAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Class attendance - Preparation and presentation for a class colloquium - A twelve-page written assignment - Final oral exam
EVALUATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colloquium – 25 % (15% text, 10% Oral Presentation) - Paper - 45 % - Final oral exam - 30%
REQUIRED TEXTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (1990) - Articles and materials prepared by the professor
RECOMMENDED TEXTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Rudder (Pedalion) [Collection of the <i>Sacred Canons</i>] - Code of Canon Law (1983)

