

NOTHING HAS HAD A GREATER IMPACT ON MY LIFE AFTER COLLEGE THAN THE THEOLOGY PROGRAM. "THE REAL WORLD" CAN BE DAUNTING BUT KNOWING WHY WE BELIEVE WHAT WE BELIEVE IS CRUCIAL FOR ANCHORING A PERSON TO CHRIST AMIDST OUR SOCIETY'S RELATIVISTIC PHILOSOPHY. I AM STILL CATHOLIC AND A STRONG WITNESS TO THE LOVE OF GOD BECAUSE OF THESE THEOLOGY CLASSES.



—Oliver Eby, '16

THE HEART OF THEOLOGY

Scripture stands at the heart of both theology (the contemplative study of divine things) and catechesis (the handing on of the content of the Faith). Since theology begins with knowledge of the saving deeds of God in Jesus Christ, who is Lord of history from the creation of the world to its consummation, the first and fundamental year of theology at Wyoming Catholic familiarizes students with the

history of salvation as God tells it to us in the words He Himself inspired. The first semester focuses on the Old Testament as background to and promise of the New, and subsequent semesters examine each of the four Gospels, along with the rest of the New Testament.



“ AT WYOMING CATHOLIC WE DO THEOLOGY ON OUR KNEES. GOD’S MYSTERY IS NOT AN IMPENETRABLE WALL AGAINST REASON BUT AN INFINITELY INTELLIGIBLE REALITY THAT ALWAYS SUPERABUNDANTLY EXCEEDS OUR REASON. IN THEOLOGY WE LEARN GOD’S MYSTERIES ARE NOT MERE RIDDLES TO BE SOLVED BUT INFINITE EVERESTS TO CLIMB AND DEPTHS TO PLUMB. ”

—Kent Lasnoski, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Theology



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THEOLOGY *at*
Wyoming Catholic College





ABOUT, FROM, & TO GOD

Theology is more than simply a study about God; it comes from God and leads to God. Each of these statements shapes how Wyoming Catholic teaches theology. It is a true science: it is systematic and comprehensive. Class time attends to all the great mysteries of the Catholic faith, taken up in a carefully reasoned order. One cannot understand moral theology before the grace of the sacraments, nor the sacraments apart from the Church, nor the Church before the Incarnation, nor the Incarnation before the Trinity, the centermost mystery of Christianity. Although theology reasons about the mysteries of faith, it receives those mysteries from God's revelation, which comes to us through Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the

Church's Magisterium. At Wyoming Catholic, this means relying on primary sources. The entire first year, students dwell with the Scripture, the very soul of theology. Every semester includes readings from Scripture, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and ecumenical councils of the Church or papal encyclicals. True theology is pursued for the sake of union with God; it depends, therefore, on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, God's own Word and perfect image. For this reason, again, freshmen dedicate their first year to meeting God through the inspired word of Scripture discussed in class, heard at Mass, and prayed through *lectio divina*. As foretaste of the Beatific Vision, theology conforms the mind to God's reality. Eternal life is "to know you, the only true God" (Jn 17:3). In theology, the Word dwells in our minds through the Holy Spirit's power.

MAJOR THEOLOGY TEXTS

Besides large amounts of scripture and St. Thomas Aquinas, the following is a selection of texts read in the Theology curriculum at Wyoming Catholic College:

- St. Vincent of Lerins, *Commonitory*
- St. Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*, and *On the Grace of Christ*
- Arius, *Thalia, Letter to Eusebius of Nicodemia*, *Letter to Alexander of Alexandria*
- Excerpts from numerous Church Councils from Antioch and Nicea to Vatican I and II
- St. Gregory Nazianzen, *Theological Orations III - V*
- St. Anselm, *Cur Deus Homo*
- St. Maximus the Confessor, *On the Lord's Prayer*
- St. John of the Cross, *Romances on "In the beginning"*
- St. Cyril of Alexandria, *On the Unity of Christ*
- St. Leo the Great, *Letter to Flavian (Tome of Leo)*
- St. John Damascene, *In Defense of the Holy Images*
- St. Cyril of Jerusalem, *On the Christian Sacraments*
- Constantine & Licinius, *Edict of Milan*
- Gelasius I, *Duo Quippe Sunt*
- Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctam*
- Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*
- Encyclicals of Leo XIII, Pius XI, and Pius XII
- St. John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor, Evangelium Vitae, Centesimus Annus*
- Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*

FROM THE THEOLOGY CLASSES AT WYOMING CATHOLIC I RECEIVED THE INESTIMABLE TREASURES OF A LOVE FOR SACRED SCRIPTURE AND A LOVE FOR READING THOMAS AQUINAS IN HIS OWN WORDS. I WAS WELL PREPARED FOR GRADUATE-LEVEL THEOLOGY WORK AND FOR LEARNING TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH OTHERS.



—Melissa Dalimata, '13