Guidelines for Academic Papers and Citations

Approved August 2015
Revised October 2017
Table of Contents

I. Effective Academic Writing

II. General Guidelines for Research Writing

III. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
   A. Plagiarism
   B. Using quotations correctly to avoid plagiarism

IV. Basic Format of an Academic Paper
   A. Title Page
   B. Page numbers
   C. Margins
   D. Formatting
   E. Spacing
   F. Abbreviations
   G. Spelling and Punctuation
   H. Capitalizations
   I. Quotations

V. References in Footnotes and Bibliographies
   A. Footnote formatting
   B. Bibliography formatting

VI. Sample Citations –primary sources
   A. Bible
   B. Catholic primary sources in English
      B.1 Catechism
      B.2 Code of Canon Law 1983
      B.3 Magisterial documents
         B.3.a Papal Encyclicals in print monographs
         B.3.b Papal Encyclicals in periodicals
         B.3.c Papal Encyclicals accessed online
         B.3.d Papal Addresses accessed online
         B.3.e in compendiums
      B.4 Ecumenical Councils
         B.4.a in print
         B.4.b in compendiums
         B.4.c accessed online
      B.5 USCCB
      B.6 Liturgical books
         B.6.a Liturgical books published as monographs
         B.6.b Liturgical books published in collected volumes
C. Catholic Primary Sources in Latin
   C.1 Vulgate
   C.2 Code of Canon Law 1917
   C.3 Magisterial and Curial Documents
      C.3.a Acta Apostolica Sedis
      C.3.b Ecumenical Councils
   C.4 Missale Romanum
   C.5 Ancient texts (Patristic and medieval)

D. Ancient Primary Sources in Translation
   D.1 Texts cited from collections
   D.2 Texts published as monographs in translation
   D.3 Texts from internet sources
   D.4 Thomas Aquinas’ Summa Theologiae
   D.5 Philosophy primary sources

Secondary sources

E. Monographs
   E.1 Books with one author
   E.2 Books with two authors
   E.3 Books with multiple authors
   E.4 Books with editors
      E.4.a Books with authors and editors
      E.4.b Books with editors in place of authors
   E.5 Books with translators
   E.6 Books with no author given
   E.7 Chapters/essays within a book
   E.8 Introduction/Forward/Preface/Afterward in a book

F. Dictionaries/Encyclopedias
   F.1 Dictionary entries
   F.2 Encyclopedia entries

G. Biblical Commentaries
   G.1 Biblical commentaries in a series (multi-volume commentaries)
   G.2 Biblical dictionaries or single-volume commentaries by various authors
      G.2.a Article from single-volume commentary
      G.2.b Article from the New Jerome Biblical Commentary

H. Articles in Periodicals (print and online)
   H.1 Article in a print journal
   H.2 Article in print journals also published online
   H.3 Article in journals published only online
   H.4 Articles from online journal databases
I. Correspondence (print and online)

J. Film and Audio Recordings

K. Websites and Blogs

L. Unpublished Theses or Dissertations

M. One Source Cited in another Source

N. Note on the *SBL Handbook of Style*

VII. Sample papers

A. Exegesis

B. Review

VIII. Bibliography
I. Effective Academic Writing

The following characteristics of academic writing determine how well a writer’s ideas are communicated to the reader. A writer who expresses his views clearly, concisely, and precisely helps the reader understand the purpose and ideas of the paper or other assignment without ambiguity or confusion.

Unity

An effective writer clearly expresses the main idea of the piece. There is usually a thesis statement for the paper, a topic sentence or a clearly discernible topic in each paragraph, and a conclusion that restates the thesis. Within each paragraph, the information provided is clearly related to the main idea of that portion of text. All the parts relate to the thesis of the entire paper.

Support

Academic writing requires adequate and appropriate facts, examples, reasons, and arguments to develop and support the main idea.

Coherence

Good writers organize all the material in a logical order so that it is easy for the reader to follow. They place details in order of importance from least to most, according to chronology or spatial arrangement, in sequence from general to specific or specific to general, or according to some other criterion. They use transitional words and phrases to cue the reader about the relationship of one idea to another.

Style

Academic writing is usually moderately formal:

- Focus: A clear premise; everything in the paper contributes to developing this premise
- Vitality: Action verbs, avoidance of redundancy, use of active voice, avoidance of clichés and tired phrases, variety of sentence patterns
- Parallelism: Words, phrases, or clauses in pairs or series should be in similar form. For example: Following Jesus’ crucifixion, the disciples were grief-stricken, confused, and they were afraid. A series of three parallel items appears to begin after the verb “were”: “grief-stricken” (an adjective), “confused” (another adjective), and then another subject and verb (“they were”) before the adjective “afraid,” rather than the adjective by itself. Eliminating “they were” keeps the parallel structure intact: Following Jesus’ crucifixion, the disciples were grief-stricken, confused, and afraid.
Scholarship

The student’s writing is reasonable and the tone is persuasive, not inflammatory. He uses sources that are chosen for their credibility within the academic community. Multiple sides of a position are acknowledged, and claims made in the paper are supported with evidence and careful argument. The paper contains no plagiarism or inaccuracy in quoting or paraphrasing sources; citations and bibliographies are correctly constructed.

Correctness

Academic writing requires careful proofreading to eliminate errors such as inaccurate or incomplete details, incorrect spelling, poor word choice, faulty punctuation, capitalization errors, lack of grammatical agreement, and incorrect or awkward sentence structure.

II. General Guidelines for Research Writing

The steps in research writing are to choose a topic, formulate a question to answer, collect information from various sources, and present the answer to the question in written form.

The format of most research papers is as follows:

  The **organization** of the paper is clear. The paper contains an introduction, an extended body, and a conclusion. For papers of more than a few pages, the use of subheadings throughout the paper can assist the writer to stay focused and the reader to follow the paper’s structure.

  The **thesis** is clearly articulated; it should be a worthwhile question to answer.

  The paper shows evidence of **original thinking and analysis**. Sources are used to support the thinking that the writer has developed.

  All information that is paraphrased or quoted is correctly identified. Quotations are accurate and use correct form. See IV. I.

  Documentation of sources follows Turabian footnotes style unless the teacher specifies a different style. In addition to footnotes, all sources are identified in the Bibliography or Works Cited. See IV. J and K.

  The writer uses standard American-English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling; he evidences careful drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading.

  The writer consults a **variety of scholarly sources**-periodicals, books, databases, relevant websites as appropriate.
The paper has **sufficient sources** to support the paper’s thesis and development.

The paper is **balanced** between the writer’s analysis and quoted or paraphrased material. A paper containing a high percentage of strung together quotations and paraphrases is not a valid research paper.

### III. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

#### A. Plagiarism

Students are responsible for the honesty and truthfulness of all of their academic work. Academic dishonesty in *any* form is **absolutely unacceptable**. Written work must be the student’s own, and each student must take care to give full documentation for all material quoted or paraphrased from other sources, including the Internet.

**Plagiarism** is perhaps the most common form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without appropriately indicating them as such so that the writer claims them as his own. Examples of plagiarism include:

- direct use of another’s words without properly indicating such use, without attributing the words accurately and exactly, and / or without properly documenting the source
- use of another’s words by changing a word(s) or phrase(s) without appropriately indicating and documenting the source
- indirect use (e.g., by paraphrasing or summarizing) of another’s ideas, arguments, thesis, or words without attributing and documenting those ideas or structures
- buying, downloading, or copying another’s work and passing it off as one’s own

For further information on plagiarism, see the Student Handbook.

#### B. Using Quotations Correctly to Avoid Plagiarism

When using direct quotations from a source, the writer must be careful to quote accurately or paraphrase quotations. Below are examples of these concerns.

*Original text:*

In story after story we see characters broken open by the hard fist of the writer, acts of brutality O’Connor deemed necessary for the eruption of living grace into the stubborn, recalcitrant lives of both the nonbelieving and the self-professedly devout. In O’Connor’s fiction, the worldly trappings of the individual must be removed by force, not because her God is an angry God, but
because most of us—when the ugly truth is told—would prefer to go to the grave with our vices intact, damnation be damned.

For O'Connor, those vices were sometimes physical in nature, such as the anodyne comforts of middle-class existence, but most often they were spiritual. They could be the political complacency of the mainline Protestant denominations, ever resistant to the social gospel, or the intellectual arrogance provided by a fancy degree, or the hubris bolstered by a belief in racial superiority.

Her favorite target, of course, was pride, and if it reoccurs in her stories almost as often as the word ugly, perhaps it’s because this particular sin—or spiritual misstep—is as ubiquitous to human life as breath itself. If separation from God is the taproot sin—the original sin and the definition of brokenness itself—then pride is certainly one of its most vigorous offshoots.

Sample One: Direct plagiarism

Flannery O’Connor is brutal in breaking her characters open for them to receive living grace. Her God is not angry but her characters do not want to change. Most of their vices are spiritual; some are physical. Pride is her favorite target because this sin is universal and goes back to original sin.

This is direct plagiarism because there is no citation given or reference to Morgan. The writer attempts to pass off the ideas and words as his own by paraphrasing the source. Whether or not this was intentional plagiarism, the instructor has only the writing and must assume the student has made a conscious choice to use the article in such a way as to indicate it is his own. Any material or usage that is from a source other than the student must be given proper attribution and a footnote and bibliographic entry given.

Sample Two: Insufficient information

C.E. Morgan states that Flannery O’Connor uses brutality to allow the grace of God to enter into both the devout and the unbeliever. Her favorite target is pride, and it reoccurs in her writing because the sin of pride is universal.

This paragraph qualifies as plagiarism because, although the student refers to Morgan in the first sentence, the author’s language and sentence structure are not cited. The student has changed and omitted some of Morgan’s statements, but they are still Morgan’s. Citation and clear attribution must be given.

There are two ways to address the problem and avoid plagiarism:
One is to give the direct quotation within the paper and indicate that it is a direct quotation (in this case by use of block quotations) and give the footnote.

In story after story we see characters broken open by the hard fist of the writer, acts of brutality O’Connor deemed necessary for the eruption of living grace into the stubborn, recalcitrant lives of both the nonbelieving and the self-professedly devout. In O’Connor’s fiction, the worldly trappings of the individual must be removed by force, not because her God is an angry God, but because most of us— when the ugly truth is told— would prefer to go to the grave with our vices intact, damnation be damned.¹

The other is to paraphrase what Morgan has written, giving credit to the author.

C.E. Morgan states that Flannery O’Connor uses brutality to allow the grace of God to enter into both the devout and the unbeliever. Her favorite target is pride, and it reoccurs in her writing because the sin of pride is universal.²

Using the above example, it is easy to see that a paraphrase is a restatement in different words of someone else’s ideas. Paraphrase is the easiest way to inadvertently plagiarize. However, it does allow the writer to demonstrate that he has understood what he has read, and can explain it clearly to the reader. You must still give credit to your source because the ideas are not yours; you have taken another person’s work and ideas putting them in your own words. Notice that quotation marks are not used in a paraphrase.

² C.E. Morgan, “Grace Hurts.” 33.
IV. Basic Format of an Academic Paper

A. Title Page
Three inches from top margin type the title of the paper. Do NOT put quotation marks around the title or bold it. Capitalize all words except prepositions, conjunctions and articles. Then about two inches down write the word “by.” Make sure the “b” is not capitalized. Next, another two inches down type your full name. Finally, another two inches down write the name of the instructor, the class title and the date. See the sample papers for an example.

B. Pagination
Number pages in the center of the bottom of the page, beginning with the first page of the text. Do not number the title page.

C. Margins
One inch margins at top, bottom, and sides. For the master’s thesis, the left margin of the final version should be 1 ½ inches; all other margins remain 1 inch.

D. Text Formatting
Format text in Times New Roman, 12 point font, justified left.

E. Spacing
Double-space the main text.
Single-space footnotes, itemized lists, and indented block quotations.
Skip a line between entries in the bibliography.

F. Abbreviations
In general, do not use abbreviations. (See III N. for accepted SBL abbreviations)

G. Spelling and Punctuation

H. Capitalizations
See Turabian, Manual, 8th ed. chapter 22, pp. 312-314. If your reference is to the Roman Catholic Church, capitalize Church.

I. Quotations
Use block quotations whenever a quoted text runs longer than five lines of the body of the paper. Do NOT enclose block quotations in quotation marks.

J. Footnotes
See II.A below

K. Bibliography
See II.B below
V. References in Footnotes and Bibliographies

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary requires both footnotes and a bibliography at the end of the work.

A. Footnote Formatting

Indent footnotes one tab space on the first line of each citation; subsequent lines should be aligned with the left margin. Use 10 point Times New Roman font and single space.

When citing a work for the first time, provide a full citation containing all the bibliographical information. In subsequent notes from the same source, use an abbreviated form. This form includes the author’s last name, a shortened title, and page number(s), separated by commas and ending with a period. Do not use the term *Ibid*.

B. Bibliography Formatting

A bibliography is required at the end of each paper. Begin the bibliography on a separate sheet of paper.

Begin each entry flush with the left margin and indent any following lines one tab space. Single space within entries and double space between entries.

Sources are listed by *alphabetical order* by last name of the author/editor. If no author/editor is given, begin the entry with the title.

Information in the bibliography contains almost the same information as in the footnote. However, bibliographical entries do not include page numbers for books; periodical articles do include complete page numbers. Parentheses are used only in footnotes.
VI. Sample Citations

A. Bible

Biblical references are not footnoted but placed in parentheses after the quotation. The edition of the Bible must be indicated by its italicized abbreviation following the reference to the Biblical book, chapter number, and verse number. If the same edition is used throughout the paper, you need give the edition only in the first citation. If more than one edition is used, give the edition with each reference. Sample: (1 Tim 3:12 *NAB*)

When citing specific books of the Bible, use the abbreviations recommended by the Congregation for the Clergy found in the appendix, not Turabian.

Note: In the parenthetical reference, use the correct abbreviations. In the text of the paper, write out the full name. Cite chapter and verse numbers using Arabic numerals separated by a colon.

Sample: A theme of Habakkuk is that of patient waiting. “For still the vision awaits its time; it hasten to the end—it will not lie” (Hab 2:3).

B. Catholic Primary Sources in English

When citing the following sources, do not use the page numbers; rather, use the paragraph or section numbers found on the side. The preferred sign for section is § which can be found in Microsoft Word under “Insert” then “Symbol” to the far right of the ribbon, then “More symbols” at the bottom of the drop down. Click on “Special characters” and choose Insert §. If your keyboard has a number pad, you can press Alt 21 to get the §.

B.1 Catechism of the Catholic Church
Be sure to use the most recent edition.
Abbreviated subsequent reference: *CCC*, 863.

B.2 Code of Canon Law
When citing the Code of Canon Law, the abbreviation c. indicates one canon, cc indicates two or more canons. The section symbol § indicates two or more sections within a single canon.

1983 Code
Abbreviated subsequent reference: *CIC*, c. 312, §1. Note that the Latin abbreviation for *Codex Iuris Canonici* is used.


For the 1917 Code, see Catholic Sources in Latin.

B.3 Magisterial Documents

The basic template for these is: author, comma, type of document (encyclical, apostolic exhortation, decree, etc.), title of document in English, title of document in Latin, date of promulgation in parentheses, comma, section or paragraph number of the document, publishing information.

Promulgation dates must be given in the first reference and in the bibliography. In all footnotes, section number(s) must be provided where available and indicated by the section symbol § for one section or §§ for two or more sections.

There are a number of correct ways to cite these documents. For example, some sources use First Vatican Council and others Vatican Council I; Pope Benedict XVI or Benedict XVI. What is important is that you BE CONSISTENT.

Many of the documents can be found in a variety of resources: as a part of a monograph, a periodical, a pamphlet, an edited collection or an online source. Thus, you may need to modify your footnote(s) and bibliography to reflect the source used.

Both print and electronic sources are acceptable. If you use web sites, the Vatican’s web site should be used.

B.3.a Papal Encyclicals in a print monograph


Abbreviated subsequent reference: *Pastores dabo vobis*, §43.


B.3.b Papal Encyclicals in a periodical


B.3.c Papal Documents accessed online


B.3.d Papal addresses accessed online


Abbreviated subsequent reference: Benedict XVI, General Audience on St Augustine of Hippo, part 2.


B.3.e Papal addresses in compendiums such as Denzinger


Subsequent reference: Mater et Magistra §23

B.4 Ecumenical Councils of the Church

B.4.a Documents accessed in print


B.4.b accessed in compendiums

See B.3.e and B.4.a above

B.4.c Documents accessed online


Subsequent reference: Vatican Council II, *Dei Verbum*


B.5 Documents from the USCCB

Before 2001, the bishops of the U.S. acting jointly were known as the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and their documents were published by the United States Catholic Conference. Thus, these titles should be used respectively for author and publisher of the bishops’ documents before 2001.


B.6 Liturgical Books

B.6.a Liturgical Books published as monographs

**Subsequent reference:** *Rite of Baptism for Children*, §91.


**B.6.b Liturgical books published in collected volumes**


**Subsequent reference:** “Blessing and Conferral of a Scapular,” §1488


**C. Catholic sources in Latin**

**C.1 The Vulgate**


**Abbreviated subsequent references** appear in parentheses in the text. E.g. (Jn 1:12 *Vulgata*).


**C.2 Code of Canon Law**

**The 1917 Code**


**Abbreviated subsequent reference:** *CIC*/1917, cc. 2186-2187.


**C.3 Magisterial Documents**

**C.3.a Acta Apostolica Sedis**
The section or paragraph number following the date of promulgation.


**Abbreviated subsequent reference:** *Divino afflante Spiritu*, §26.


C.3.b Ecumenical Councils
Documents are cited by identifying the council, the session, the date of the public session, the decree, and if applicable, the specific chapter or canon being cited.


C.4 The *Missale Romanum*


C.5 Original language editions of ancient texts


D Ancient Primary Sources Translated into English

D.1. Ancient texts cited from collections


Note: Ancient texts found in the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* This text should be used as a reference rather than as a primary source. All translations in it are taken from other sources that are indicated in the footnotes. These sources, rather than the commentary volume, should be used and cited.

D.2. Ancient texts published as monographs in translation


D.3 Ancient texts from internet sources


D.4 St Thomas Aquinas’ *Summa theologiae*
The *Summa theologiae* of St Thomas Aquinas is cited by part (I, I-II, II-II, III), question, and article. For example, *ST* II-II, q. 23, a. 3, ad 1 means, the second part (half) of the second part, question twenty-three, article three, reply to the first objection. “Obj.” refers to an objection within an article. To cite more than one article at a time, use the abbreviation “arts” for articles, as in the following example: *ST*, I, q. 13, arts 5-6.


Subsequent reference: *ST*, III, q. 72, a. 11, trans. English Dominican Province, 2426-2427.

D.5 Ancient Philosophical Primary Sources


Secondary Sources

E. Monographs

E.1 Books with one author


Abbreviated Subsequent reference: Gerakas, 281.


E.2 Books with two authors


E.3 Books with multiple authors


E.4 Books with editors

E.4.a Books with editor(s) in addition to author(s)


E.4.b Books with editor(s) in place of an author


E.5 Books with translators


E.6 Books with no author or editor given
If an author or editor is unknown, begin the entry with the title.


Subsequent reference: *Train Journeys*, 42.


E.7 Chapters/essays within a book


E.8 Introductions /Prefaces/Forwards/Afterwards


Subsequent reference: Stewart-Sykes, introduction, 15.


E.9 Electronic books (e-books)

Electronic books are cited like their print counterparts, but you will need to add additional information. If you read the book online, include both a URL and an access date. If you downloaded the book to an e-reader, do not include an access date; do include the format.

E.9. a Read online


Subsequent reference: Pattison, *God and Being*


E.9. b Downloaded to an e-reader


Subsequent Reference: Osborne, *Human Action*


F. Dictionary and Encyclopedia Entries
F.1 Dictionary entries


F.2. Encyclopedia entries


G. Biblical Commentaries


Abbreviated Subsequent reference: Neyrey, Gospel of John, 53.


G.2. Biblical dictionaries or single-volume commentaries by various authors

In general, biblical dictionaries are cited like other dictionaries, and single-volume commentaries by various authors are cited like essays in edited volumes.

G.2.a. Article from single-volume commentary


G.2.b. Article from the New Jerome Biblical Commentary


H. Articles in Periodicals (printed and online)

H.1. Article in a Journal


H.2. Article in print journals published online


H.3. Article in journals published only online

Subsequent reference: Bartholomeusz, “Defense of Dharma,”


H.4. Articles from online journal databases

**Subsequent reference:** Brugger, “Rejecting the Death Penalty,” 399.


I. Correspondence (including emails)
FN: Dan Scholz to David Stosur, “Theological Competence,” personal e-mail (1 October 2002).

**Subsequent reference:** Scholz to Stosur.

**Bib.:** Scholz, Dan, to David Stosur. “Theological Competence.” Personal e-mail of 1 October 2002.

J. Film and Audio Recordings

**Subsequent reference:** *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.


K. Web Sites and Blogs
In general, these sites should be used sparingly and with discretion since they often change or are reflective of opinion based on emotion, not fact. Web sites with .org are often the best sources.

Follow the basic form of author, title, source, etc.

L. Unpublished Theses or Dissertations

**Subsequent reference:** Grabowski, “Theological Anthropology,” 350.


M. One Source Cited in Another
In general, if an author cites another source, you should find and use the original source of the quotation. This helps to verify the accuracy of the quote and that its meaning is not altered by the context of a secondary source. However, when the original is not available, cite it as “quoted in” the secondary source. For example: “Because of human blindness and rigidity, ‘suffering is the deepest of the mysteries,’ according to Teilhard de Chardin, whom O’Connor read with some agreement late in her life (qtd. in Kilcourse).


Subsequent reference: Kilcourse, 370


N. *The SBL Handbook of Style*
Unlike Turabian, The Society of Biblical Literature has very specific abbreviations for secondary sources: journals, periodicals, major reference works, and serials. If a professor wants you to use these abbreviations instead of those found in the above samples, there are copies of *The SBL Handbook of Style* in the reference area of the library. The call number is Ref 808.027 S276a. See pages 89-152. Likewise, the appendix lists the correct abbreviations for documents of the Magisterium. Use these if you are directed to do so.
VI. Sample Papers

Christ the Door

by

Matthew M. Metaphor

CHR 203 Christology

Dr. Systematic Theology

December 21, 1899
Christological titles, especially those found in the New Testament, provide a deeper understanding of the purpose and mission of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In chapter ten of *The Gospel according to Saint John*, Jesus reveals Himself as the good shepherd, “who lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11, NAB). In the same chapter, Jesus also describes Himself as “the door of the sheep” (John 10:7). This situation is curious, as Jesus presents Himself as the one who tends to his flock, and also the door through which the flock passes. Both titles provide a unique insight into the nature of Jesus; however, they also are intricately linked in order to show a more profound cognizance of the mission of Jesus. The title of the “good shepherd” is a beloved and familiar designation, while door is a more “unexpected and difficult reading.” For this reason, I have chosen to focus primarily on this unusual title, to illustrate how the title “door” enhances the Christian understanding of the person of Jesus and His Church.

This title very clearly exemplifies Jesus’s salvific power. Indeed, Jesus is the shepherd who shows the way to the Kingdom of Heaven; however, He is also the door through which one enters. “I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture” (John 10:9). Since Christ is the only door, He thus “rules out all other claimants to being saviors of humankind.” By using the term door, Jesus further validates His role as the true savior of mankind, and those who enter the door and become part of the fold (i.e. the Church) “will find safety, freedom and sustenance.”

---

The Greek word for door, Θύρα (thura), also divulges an important insight into why Jesus, after calling Himself the good shepherd, also chooses to call Himself the door of the sheep. In ancient times, shepherding farms had different types of doors to various places. There were doors to stone hovels, to caves in the shepherd’s fields, and to fields surrounded by stones and hedges. The latter is most likely the area which the Lord was referencing, which is an extremely significant point, as many of these types of fields did not have doors. Instead, the shepherd himself would sleep “across the entrance to the fold and thus serve as both shepherd and gate.”6 Dr. William M. Miller, of the “American Presbyterian Mission,” was traveling through Persia when he came upon a pasture such as this. Noticing there was no door built into the enclosure, he asked the shepherd why there was no door on the entrance to the field. The Shepherd replied, “You do not understand. That is where the shepherd sleeps, the shepherd is the door.”7 Clearly, it is not accidental as to why Jesus chose to call Himself both shepherd and door in the same passage. For, in the world of sheep, both the shepherd and door provide two separate functions, but, at the same time, they are identical. Therefore, Jesus acts as the entrance to the flock and their caretaker, showing that these two separate Christological titles are meant to be united.

In a very simple way a door can be defined as “an opening…used to gain entrance into various buildings or cities.”8 In modern times, cities are not surrounded by walls; however, in the ancient world, enormous walls often enveloped entire cities. Doors, or gates, played a significant role in the preservation of cities and communities as “the city gate provided the

---

passageway between the protection of life inside the city and the dangers lurking outside.”9
Furthermore, many cities had only one door, and so “it was the most heavily fortified part of
their defenses.”10 By understanding this concept, one can easily see why Jesus uses this
illustration. The Kingdom of Heaven, or the Heavenly City, is the place to which Jesus is
guiding all mankind. This city is guarded from every evil and is the abode of the Father
Himself. While the Father wishes all people to enter, He has given His people only one
entrance, His Son.

In the Old Testament, it is clear that doors played a pivotal role in cities, but also in
individual houses as well. At the Passover during the persecution of the slaves in Egypt, “the
Israelites [marked] the lintels with Blood, the sign of life, and those inside remain unharmed.”11
Similarly, in the New Testament, Jesus was murdered and covered with His own blood. Just as
the lamb’s blood on the doors of the Israelite homes saved their lives, so does the blood of
Christ the door, save us. It is a fundamental Christian axiom that the Lord shed his blood for
our sake, so that the door to the Kingdom of Heaven would open for humanity. Jesus himself
says, “Knock and the door will open to you” (Matt 7:7), thus giving all who seek His name
worthily an opportunity for entrance into Heaven. Thus, the Christian sees an eschatological
dimension to this title, as “doors form the eschatological vision which draws a sharp line
between the inside and outside, between the just and unjust, between belonging and
abandonment.”12

---

Lumen gentium promotes this title of Christ as an ecclesial reference. The Dogmatic Constitution states that “The Church is a sheepfold whose one and indispensable door is Christ.”

Christ is the entrance to His Church, as the Shepherd is the entrance to his flock. One can enter through the Door, but one can also, as Scripture asserts in a cryptic fashion, exit if he wishes. St. Augustine writes, “To enter into the Church by Christ the Door is a very good thing, but to go out of the Church is not. Going inward must refer to inward cognition; going out to outward action.”

Therefore, being a part of the Church requires exterior actions which have manifested from the inward recognition of Jesus as the door to the Church.

As I read from the various commentaries, dictionaries, and documents, I began to understand the depth of this simple, but often overlooked, Christological title. I have always pictured the gates of Heaven to be gold and emblazoned with a pearly glow. Now, having become familiar with the unity of the symbols of shepherds and doors, it fascinates me to think that the door to Heaven is Jesus Himself, stained with blood from His agonizing and selfless death.

Additionally, I have a better understanding the mission of St. Peter, the first Pope, whom the Lord charged to tend to His flock, thus bestowing on Him the title of shepherd. Jesus also gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, and keys themselves signify a type of door. Clearly the door to which these keys belong is Jesus Christ, who proclaimed himself as this very door. Using these titles of shepherd and door clearly indicates the Lord’s brilliance; He does not choose analogies and metaphors at random, but instead knows the intricacies of language, and how to express complex truths with a simple approach.

---


Bibliography


Appendix
KENRICK-GLENNON SEMINARY

OFFICIAL ABBREVIATIONS OF BIBLICAL BOOKS AND CHURCH DOCUMENTS

I BIBLICAL ABBREVIATIONS

**Old Testament** Gen: Genesis
Ex: Exodus
Lev: Leviticus
Num: Numbers
Deut: Deuteronomy
Josh: Joshua
Judg: Judges
Ruth: Ruth
1Sam: 1 Samuel
2Sam: 2 Samuel
1Kings: 1 Kings
2Kings: 2 Kings
1Chron: 1 Chronicles
2Chron: 2 Chronicles
Ezra: Ezra
Neh: Nehemiah
Tob: Tobit
Jud: Judith
Esther: Esther
Job: Job
Ps: Psalms
Prov: Proverbs
Eccles: Ecclesiastes
Song: Song of Solomon
Wis: Wisdom
Sir: Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)
Is: Isaiah
Jer: Jeremiah
Lam: Lamentations
Bar: Baruch
Ezek: Ezekiel
Dan: Daniel

---

Hos: Hosea
Joel: Joel
Amos: Amos
Obad: Obadiah
Jon: Jonah
Mic: Micah
Nahum: Nahum
Hab: Habakkuk
Zeph: Zephaniah
Hag: Haggai
Zech: Zechariah
Mal: Malachi
1Mac: 1 Maccabees
2Mac: 2 Maccabees

**New Testament**
Mt: Matthew
Mk: Mark
Lk: Luke
Jn: John
Rom: Romans
1Cor: 1 Corinthians
2Cor: 2 Corinthians
Gal: Galatians
Eph: Ephesians
Phil: Philippians
Col: Colossians
1Thess: 1 Thessalonians
2Thess: 2 Thessalonians
1Tim: 1 Timothy
2Tim: 2 Timothy
Tit: Titus
Philem: Philemon
Heb: Hebrews
Jas: James
1Pet: 1 Peter
2Pet: 2 Peter
1Jn: 1 John
2Jn: 2 John
II DOCUMENTS OF THE MAGISTERIUM


AAS: Acta Apostolicae Sedis (Acts of the Apostolic See)

AD: Ad Diem Illum (Jubilee of definition of the Immaculate Conception, Pope St. Pius X, 1904)

AG: Second Vatican Council, Decree on missionary activity in the Church *Ad Gentes* (7 December 1965)

AN: Acerbo Nimis (The teaching of christian doctrine, Pope St. Pius X, 1905)


CCC: *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (11 October 1992)

CCL: *Corpus Christianorum*, Latin series (Turnholt 1953 ff.)

CD: Second Vatican Council, Decree on the pastoral office of Bishops in the Church *Christus Dominus* (28 October 1965)


CIC: Codex Iuris Canonici (The Code of Canon Law: Vatican City 1987)


CSEL: *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum* (Wn 1866 ff.)

EI: Enchiridion Indulgentiarum (Official list of Indulgences and the laws governing them - The Sacred Penitentiary, 1968)


DH: Second Vatican Council, Declaration on Religious Liberty, *Dignitatis Humanae* (7 December 1965)


DV: Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation *Dei Verbum* (18 November 1965)


JSE: Jucunda Semper (The Rosary, Pope Leo XIII, 1894)


LG: Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium* (21 November 1944)

MC: Mystici Corporis (The Mystical Body of Christ, Pope Pius XII, 1943)

Mcul: Marialis Cultus (The right ordering and development of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Paul VI, 1974)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Mediator Dei (The Sacred Liturgy, Pope Pius XII, 1947) MF  Mysterium Fidei (The mystery of faith - on the mystery of the Eucharist, Pope Paul VI, 1965)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>Mens Nostra (Retreats, Pope Pius XI, 1929).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPD</td>
<td>Synod of Bishops, Message to the People of God, <em>Cum iam ad exitum</em> on catechesis in our times (28 October 1977) Typis Polyglottis Vaticanis 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDV</td>
<td>Pastores Dabo Vobis (The formation of priests in circumstances of the present day, Pope John Paul II, 1992)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO:</td>
<td>Second Vatican Council, Decree on Priestly Life and Ministry <em>Presbyterorum Ordinis</em> (7 December 1965)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMat</td>
<td>Redemptoris Mater (Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, Pope John Paul II, 1987)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM</td>
<td>Signum Magnum (Consecration to Our Lady, Pope Paul VI, 1967)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SYNOD 1985: Synod of Bishops (extraordinary meeting of 1985) Final Report *Ecclesia sub verbo Dei mysteria Christi celebrans pro salute mundi* (7 December 1985), Vatican City 1985


UAD Ubi Arcano Dei (On the peace of Christ in the reign of Christ, Pope Pius XI, 1922)

UR: Second Vatican Council, Decree on Ecumenism *Unitatis Redintegratio* (21 November 1964)
