

Course Title -- Atonement: the Transforming Power of Suffering Love

Course Description:

“In this way the love of God was revealed to us:...that he sent his Son as expiation for our sins” (1 Jn 4:9-10). The theme of atonement takes us to the very heart of the mission of Jesus Christ. Atonement is the form that the love of God takes in his Son, Jesus Christ, under sin-wrought conditions – a love than which no greater can be conceived. It should be cause for concern, therefore, that a conspicuous characteristic of much of contemporary catechesis and theology is the absence of efforts to understand the Cross of Christ as a work of atonement.

In this course, Dr. Turek argues for the central importance and perennial value of the mystery of atonement, even as she explains the modern aversion to it. Drawing insights from the writings of Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, as well as Hans Urs von Balthasar and St. Therese of Lisieux (among others), she presents a compelling vision of the Cross event as a dramatic epiphany, shaped in response to sin, of the staggering love of God for us, while we were yet sinners (Rom 5:8). This vision not only takes account of the gravity of sin and its consequences, but also provides a clear illumination of the radically forgiving, passionate and powerful nature of God’s redeeming love. In addition, the course spells out a renewed spirituality of atonement in which we personally participate in the atoning mission of Christ.

Required text: Margaret M Turek, *Atonement: Soundings in Biblical, Trinitarian, and Spiritual Theology* (Ignatius Press, 2022).

Topics of Class Sessions:

Class 1 (Feb. 20) **What We Get Wrong about the Doctrine of Atonement**

Class 2 (Feb. 27) **Forgiveness and Atonement: the Interplay of Love that Bears Sin Away**

Class 3 (March 5) **The Nature and Aim of God's Wrath**

Class 4 (March 12) **The Cross as a Dramatic Epiphany of the God who is Love (1 Jn 4:9-10)**

Class 5 (March 19) **"Be imitators of God as beloved children": Called to be Co-atoners in Christ (Eph 5:1)**

Class 6 (March 26) **“He Emptied Himself” (Phil 2:7): Spiritual Almsgiving and Atonement**

For publicity purposes, here is a brief bio:

Dr. Margaret Turek is Academic Dean and Professor of Theology at St. Patrick's Seminary & University in Menlo Park, California. She earned a Doctor of Sacred Theology degree at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, where her thesis director was Cardinal Christoph Schönborn who, with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was co-editor of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Prior to her graduate studies, she received spiritual formation as a Carmelite for six years. Her new book, *Atonement: Soundings in Biblical, Trinitarian, and Spiritual Theology*, is published by Ignatius Press.

I have attached a flyer of my book and a jpeg photo to this email (in case they can be of use).