



Explorations of the Gospels

Presented by: Rev. Felix Just, S.J., Ph.D.
Jesuit Biblical Ministries

Puzzles & Riddles in the Gospel According to John

November 16, 2019 • 9am to 4pm

John's Gospel uses very simple vocabulary to express profound truths. But why is it also so full of word-plays, double-meanings, misunderstandings, ironies, and surprising plot twists? Why are most of its contents not found in the three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), and why are most of the Synoptic stories not found in John? Most scholars believe that John was the last of the four Gospels to be completed, and its theology is obviously more highly developed than the other three. And yet John also contains many old elements of early tradition, with more concrete historical and geographical details than the other Gospels. Moreover, although John's twenty-one chapters can be read as a unified whole, some of its literary puzzles suggest that it was not written all at one time, but rather was expanded over time from shorter, earlier editions. How can all these curiosities be understood or explained? Although this workshop cannot give definitive answers to all of John's riddles, we will explore some avenues for a better understanding of this Gospel, which was (and still is) highly significant for the development of Christian belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. If possible, read John's Gospel before the workshop, and come with your own questions and observations.

The Passion of Jesus in the Four Gospels

March 28, 2020 • 9am to 4pm

All four Gospels of the New Testament end with an account of the passion, death, and resurrection of the same historical person: Jesus of Nazareth. And while the overall sequence of events in the last week of Jesus' life is basically the same, the way the story is told is significantly different in each Gospel, with varying historical details and different theological emphases. In Christian liturgy, one of the Synoptic Passion narratives is read each year on Palm Sunday, in a three-year cycle (Matthew in Year A, Mark in Year B, Luke in Year C), while John's Passion narrative is read every year on Good Friday. In contrast, any books, movies, or stage plays about Jesus's last days on earth (such as the world-famous Passion Play performed every ten years in Oberammergau, Germany) need to blend the various episodes and elements of the four narratives into one connected whole. This workshop will analyze the similarities and differences of the four Gospel Passion Narratives in order to understand better the common historical foundations (what really happened) as well as the various theological messages (what each evangelist tried to emphasize). If possible, read all four narratives (Mark 14-15, Matthew 26-27, Luke 22-23, and John 18-19) before coming to this workshop.

Fr. Felix Just, S.J., Fr. Felix Just, S.J. is a scripture scholar and educator with Jesuit Biblical Ministries, based in San Francisco. A frequent public lecturer, educator and retreat director in California and nationally, he brings a wide variety of scriptural themes to life for adult learners, and especially those who serve in Church ministry. Fr. Just received his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from Yale University, has taught in a variety of ways at Loyola Marymount, and regularly leads biblical pilgrimages to the Holy Land and sites of early Christianity. He maintains an international recognized website of "Catholic Resources", especially for scripture, at <http://catholic-resources.org>.



Ecclesia Workshops 2019 - 2020

- November 16, 2019 - Puzzles & Riddles in the Gospel according to John
- March 28, 2019 - The Passion of Jesus in the Four Gospels

Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Parish: _____

Payment

Cost: \$25 - Single Workshop | \$40 - Both Workshops

Checks: Please make checks payable to "Mount Saint Mary's University" and mention *Ecclesia* on the memo line. Please mail to the address below.

Credit Card:

Please charge \$_____ to the following credit card: Visa Mastercard

Account Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____ Cardholder's Zip Code: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Additional Options: Donation to assist the attendance of those from low-income communities:

\$20 \$10 \$_____

Mail to: Gail Gresser, Campus Ministry
Mount Saint Mary's University
10 Chester Place • Los Angeles, CA 90007

Questions? Please email:
campusministry@msmu.edu or GGresser@msmu.edu
For more information visit msmu.edu/ecclesia
or call 310-954-4126

