Catholic Bible Institute – Year 2 Project/Paper

Participants enrolled for "Certification" are required to do a longer project/paper for March 2015, *instead of* **the monthly one-page reflection paper.** Anyone enrolled in the CBI for "Enrichment" does **not** need to write this longer paper, but we encourage you to write the usual monthly one-page reflection paper for March.

Your project topic is: **Ten Reasons Why Christians Must Study the Old Testament**

For this final project, you are to produce a detailed set of "presentation notes" for an oral presentation that you could give to an adult audience. Imagine that you are asked to give this presentation (between 45 and 60 minutes long) in your own parish. The paper that you submit should consist of your detailed **"presentation notes,"** along with a "**handout**" that you can give to the people attending your presentation. When this project/paper is finished, you should be totally ready to step up to the podium and begin presenting. **Here are the rules:**

1. Each of your "ten reasons" must have several Scripture passages to accompany and illustrate it.
2. Each reason must have enough of a description/explanation so that the reader (Prof. Daniel Smith-Christopher) can clearly understand the argument that you are trying to make.
3. Each reason must have equal amounts of material, so that you don't run out of gas after reason number seven.
4. The paper you submit should include a title page, *one page for each of the "ten reasons,"* and a bibliography page (12 pages total), *plus* the handout you give to the attendees.
5. The handout you prepare should be geared toward a general adult public (similar to the CBI handouts). It should be no less than one full page and no more than two pages (printed back-to-back on one sheet of paper).

Note: You do NOT have to write out everything that you plan to say, as if you were simply going to read the entire presentation, but each page should have enough detailed explanations so that your reader clearly understands each of the "ten reasons" that you are giving in your presentation.

Do your Research:

- First, review your notes and the textbooks from Year 2 of the CBI (2014–2015).
- Next, read the relevant sections of *Dei Verbum* and *Nostra Aetate* (from the Documents of Vatican II). Also read *The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible* (PBC, 2001), and the relevant paragraphs from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC §§120-130)*.
- All of these documents are available online; links provided at http://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/

Reflect on your Ten Reasons and Plan your Paper:

- Carefully consider in what order you want to present your ten reasons, so your hearers understand them easily.
- Make your presentation *both* **academic** (based on scholarly research) *and* **pastoral** (applicable and practical to everyday faith life).
- As you write your paper, remember that you are NOT writing your full presentation—only a **bullet-point outline**. Include *several* biblical texts/illustrations/examples for each of the ten reasons you are presenting.

Write your Paper and Create your Handout:

- Papers should be *typed* on letter-sized (8½ x 11) white paper, using a 10-12 point font, with ***one-inch margins***.
- Compose a separate title page including your name, your table group, the date, and a creative presentation title.
- Please ***proofread*** *your paper*, with special attention to spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- For *more tips on* ***good writing***, see http://www.catholic-resources.org/Courses/WritingTips.htm.
- **Please *email your paper* by *March 21, 2015,* to *Randy Lopez*: rmlopezmts@gmail.com**

Use Proper Formatting for your Parenthetical Notes and your Bibliography:

- When you ***directly quote*** the *Bible*, cite the book name, chapter and verse number(s) right after the quotation (in proper format; *see* http://www.catholic-resources.org/Bible/Biblical_References.htm).
- If you ***directly quote*** from *non-biblical works* (modern textbooks, dictionaries, commentaries, etc.), give the brief reference in parentheses (author's name, page number) right after the quote.
- Include a ***bibliography*** of all sources you used in your research (not just those you directly quote in the paper).
- For examples of all of the above, *see the* ***back of this page***.

Examples of Bibliographical Format:

At the end of any research paper, include a *full bibliography* listing all books or articles you used and/or quoted.

- Include the *complete publication information*: name of **author** (and/or editor), **title** (and subtitle), publication **city: company, year** [and **page numbers** of chapters/articles, but not for whole books).
- Use the *proper format for each type of publication*, as in the examples below; pay close attention to the *order* of the items, the use of *italics* or *quotation marks*, and any *other punctuation*.
- For more explanation and examples, see http://www.catholic-resources.org/Courses/WritingTips.htm.

Whole Book:

Boadt, Lawrence. *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction*. New York: Paulist Press, 1984.

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

Chapter or Essay within a Book:

Resseguie, James L. "John 9: A Literary-Critical Analysis." In: *Literary Interpretations of Biblical Narratives* (edited by K.R. Gros Louis; Nashville: Abingdon, 1982) 2.295-303.

Article in a Journal or Magazine:

Poirier, John C. "'Day and Night' and the Punctuation of John 9:3." *New Testament Studies* 42 (1996) 288-94.

Article in a Dictionary or Commentary:

Dunn, James D.G. "Christology." *Anchor Bible Dictionary* (edited by David N. Freedman; New York: Doubleday, 1992) 1.979-91.   [short for volume 1, pages 979-991]

On-Line Materials (*list the author, title, web address, and the date you used it*)**:**

Goodacre, Mark. "The New Testament Gateway" [http://www.ntgateway.com/]. Accessed on 2/3/14.

Examples of Quotations and Parenthetical References:

Most of what you write in a research paper should be ***your own thoughts*** expressed in ***your own words***. But you *also* need to *support* what you write with **short** quotations from other writings (ancient or modern texts):

- Copyright law (and common courtesy) requires that you at least briefly *identify the source* of your material (give credit where credit is due; would you want other people to use your words as they were their own?)
- If you *directly quote* someone else's words, you must use "quotation marks" (and cite the reference afterwards); if you don't quote exactly, but only mention someone else's ideas, you should still reference your source.
- Put the reference in parentheses, after the quotation, but before the sentence's closing punctuation (ref. here).

Direct Quote – C*ite in parentheses the author's last name, an abbreviated title, and the page number***:**

"Matthew's extremely hostile critique of the scribes and Pharisees as casuistic (especially in chap. 23) is not untypical of the harsh criticism of one Jewish group by another Jewish group in the 1st centuries BC and AD – a criticism that at times crossed the borderline into slander" (Brown, *Intro NT*, 222).

Referencing a work without directly quoting – *When you use ideas from other authors, even if you do not quote their exact words, you still need to give credit to your source; give the reference in the same format as for a direct quote***:**

The biblical authors of Genesis utilized the popular mythology of the region and time to illustrate to the readers the dangers and consequences of sin (see Boadt, *Reading the OT*, 122).

Biblical Citations – *The Bible must also be properly referenced. If you say, "John says" or "Matthew writes," you need to back up your claim with a citation. If you refer to an event or a specific text, you need to give the exact biblical reference***:**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is warned in a dream to escape with Mary and the child Jesus to Egypt (Matt 2:13).

For more tips and examples of biblical references, see http://www.catholic-resources.org/Bible/Biblical_References.htm