

Submission of Theses for Lectio Coram

Ten theses must be submitted to the Academic Dean in early March. Three of these theses should concern topics in Sacred Scripture, three in Moral Theology, and three in Systematic Theology, with the tenth added in any one of the fields of your choice. Only one of these topics may pertain to your *tesina*.

These theses should follow a standard format providing the TITLE, BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE THESES TOPIC, and a SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHY.

The theses are then submitted to the faculty, which decides whether they are suitable and reflect the spectrum of the above mentioned theological disciplines.

Next, a board of three faculty members is chosen by the Academic Dean to examine the S.T.L. candidate. By secret ballot, this board determines the thesis to be presented at the *lectio coram*. Once this decision is made, a fourth examiner with expertise in the theological discipline chosen is added to the examining board.

The student is notified concerning the thesis selected 48 hours before the scheduled time of the *lectio*.

The *lectio coram* begins with a 45 minute presentation of the thesis by the candidate. Then each examiner questions the student for ten minutes. When this process is completed, the board adjourns to evaluate the S.T.L. candidate's presentation and the theological competency exhibited in the *lectio* (during this time the student may entertain questions from the interested public). The board members return to announce their decision and to comment on the presentation and content of the *lectio*.

Guidelines for *Lectio Coram* Theses

Topic Summaries

1. The summaries should be succinct and to the point, outlining the main ideas to be discussed in the lecture.

Bibliographies

2. The Bibliography should contain at least 7-10 items, as current as possible, clearly related to the point of the thesis/lecture. Relevant volumes and pages should be indicated. This indicates the candidate's ability to pinpoint the relevant literature for his/her topic and gives some guide to those who will be following the lecture.
3. The student cannot reference his/her own writings in the bibliographies. Unless the student already has a doctorate in the area of the thesis topic, the student is not considered an authority that can be used.
4. The bibliographies are to be representative of the main views on the topic and should include examples of the latest, most current research.
5. The format of each bibliographic entry must follow the standard pattern accepted in theological writings.

Format

6. Each page must be single-spaced and have a one-inch margin on each edge.

The theses should be submitted for review by the faculty in early March. In early April the candidate will submit a corrected and final list of ten theses.

Guidelines for the *Lectio Coram*

The *Lectio Coram* is a traditional tool used by Dominican *studia* which has been adapted to present day usage before the Pontifical Faculty. In the *Lectio* the candidate for the S.T.L. demonstrates to the board of examiners (usually three) the he/she 1) has a firm grasp of the topic on which he/she is speaking; 2) and is able to communicate that knowledge to the board of examiners. In addition, if the topic is theological, the candidate should demonstrate his/her ability to theologize to his/her board of examiners.

The following methodology is to be used in presenting your thesis before the board of examiners in the *Lectio Coram*. The presenter has only forty-five minutes to present his or her thesis; following these guidelines should enable the presenter to clearly state the thesis within those limits and present the supporting evidence. The remainder of the time will be devoted to answering questions from the examiners.

1. Briefly describe the question or problem you will be discussing: (15 minutes maximum)
 - a. Why are you discussing this topic? That is, what is its significance?
 - b. What do you hope to prove?
2. Briefly state your basic answer of solution to the question or problems. What is the point of your *Lectio*? (5 minutes maximum)
3. Develop your thesis which answers or solves the question or problem: (at least 20 minutes)
 - a. This is the heart of your presentation and should utilize the great majority of your time.
 - b. During this time you can:
 - ii Define your terms
 - ii Cite your authorities
 - iii State your principles
 - iv Argue your thesis from your principles
4. Summarize your conclusion(s): (5 minutes)
 - a. What do you want the examiner to remember in particular
 - b. What questions remain for further consideration
 - i Either in the question period
 - ii Or in another forum