

## WEEK 1 (PRELIM)

### INTRODUCTION

**Synchronous session (1-hour interactive discussion with students via Google meet)**

**Objective:**

At the end of the session, the student should be able to commit himself/herself to the course. The students will be asked to sign and submit the pledge of commitment form to the teacher as an indication that they understand the course syllabus.

**From “Searching God” to “Responding to God” to “Celebrating God” and now towards “Transforming the World”**

You are now in your fourth and last theology subject in Adamson University’s Theology curriculum on “*Faith Journey towards Social Transformation.*” Let us spend a little time to recall what you went through from our previous Theology classes.

Let us start with our **Theology 1**, *Searching for God in the World Today*. In this subject, “Theology” was defined as a process or a practice of consciously and methodically reflecting on our experience of God in the ordinariness of life and social and historical events of the world. You were introduced to “do theology” using the methodology of *see-discern-act/pray*. The objective of Theology (1) is not only to know God but to have a deeper and intimate relationship with God-in-Jesus.

**Theology 2**, *Responding to God’s Call by Becoming Fully Human*, continues our journey of discipleship. The subject dealt with what is to be truly and fully human from a Christian perspective as a way of responding to God-in Jesus’ invitation having found Him in our lives. Thus, in this course, we paid attention on our “virtues” or good habits as ways to follow Jesus of Nazareth and St. Vincent de Paul. Through the Scripture and Christian tradition as means, we are guided to develop good habits/practices that will help us to become [good persons] persons with moral integrity.

In **Theology 3**, *Celebrating God’s Presence as a Christian Community*, we were able to realize that we are not alone in our journey of becoming truly and fully alive human persons as the pilgrim people of God, the Church, the God-in-Jesus continue to be present in us.

The church-community today continue to proclaim in words and deeds the liberating message of Jesus by being relevant to its mission of evangelization in the context of new challenges or “(the) signs of the times”, particularly the poor and the suffering, in the spirit and example of St. Vincent de Paul.

From this understanding of the church in solidarity with the whole of humanity and the whole of creation, we are able to better understand the Sacraments as celebrations of God's active presence of love and life in the world and as a challenge for us (as church-community) to give witness to its story as the sacrament of Christ's saving unity and fellowship in the world

This fourth and last course in Theology is designed to help us concretely act out our discipleship in Jesus in the larger (context, the) social world. We are facing many challenges brought about by scientific and technological advancements, along with the issues and problems that affect the life of persons, communities and societies. As we cannot put new wine into old wineskins (Matt. 9:17), we need new perspectives and approaches to new challenges. These new ways of understanding and solutions must still be rooted in the values of the Reign of God that Jesus Christ proclaimed, guided by the social teachings and practices of the Catholic Church, and in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul who promoted in what we may call today as "systemic change". This is why **Theology 4** is entitled, "*Transforming the World with St. Vincent de Paul.*"

As Adamsonians, molded in the Vincentian virtues and spirituality, you shall be assisted in this course on how to respond to social concerns. Distinct from other courses in the university that deal with philosophical ethics, this Theology course offers the theological ethical principles for responding to the challenges of the times.

#### **Asynchronous session (2 hours)**

Please watch the video from the link provided below. An on-line discussion will follow via Blackboard or through a short video chat at your most convenient time.