GENERAL ORDINATION EXAMINATION 1984 - ESSAY QUESTIONS, SET 1 (Open-Book)

You receive this set of questions at the completion of the Closed-Book Scripture Questions on Thursday afternoon, January 5. You are to hand in your responses to Set 1 not later than 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 7.
Please respond to Part A, and to ONE of the questions in Part B.
Please identify each page at the top right corner with your examination number, the Set and Question number, and the page number. DO NOT sign your name to the answers. Be sure to cite your sources, if you use quotations.

PART A

You have recently become rector in a medium-sized city. Less than half a block away is a large Roman Catholic parish. Your predecessor was involved in preliminary discussions of a form of "covenant relationship" between the two congregations, a relationship which had been encouraged by both the Episcopal and the Roman Catholic bishops. Some people cannot understand why there cannot be joint Eucharistic celebrations and intercommunion now. Others have a long-standing and deep mistrust of the Roman Catholic Church.

1. In order to assist your parishioners to approach Anglican-Roman relationships in an improved way, design a study program around the following:
   (a) What, historically, were the major theological and liturgical issues that led to the separation of the Roman and Anglican Communions?

   (b) What new and old issues divide the two Communions now?

   (c) What theological beliefs and customs now unite them?

2. In the light of the foregoing, outline a tentative covenant.

PART B

Answer either (1) or (2)

(1) You are a parish priest in a town where the major employer is a plant that manufactures parts for nuclear weapons. A number of your parishioners have strong but mixed feelings regarding the growing peace movement, and some of them fear for their jobs. They also have questions about the moral dimensions of their work.

What are some moral, theological, political and social implications of Christians' being involved in such employment? How would you help to design a program in the parish to enable people to confront these problems in the town, in the factory, and in the church?

OR

(2) The following two views have been expressed recently:
   (a) Some prominent Christian leaders have publicly declared that the sexually-transmitted diseases Herpes II and AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) are God's punishment upon the sexually licentious.

   (b) Another prominent Christian leader has publicly declared that AIDS is not the judgment of God on homosexuals.

   Both of these are claims about God's agency in the world. State a theological, ethical, and Biblical rationale in defense of, or in opposition to, each of these claims.

GENERAL ORDINATION EXAMINATION 1984 - ESSAY QUESTIONS, SET II (Open-Book)

You receive this set of questions at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 9, after a weekend free from examination-writing for the G.O.E. You are to hand in your responses to Set II not later than 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 11.

Please respond to the question in Part A, ONE of the questions in Part B, and ONE of the questions in Part C.

Please identify each page at the top right corner with your examination number, the Set and Question number, and the page number. DO NOT sign your name to your answers. Be sure to cite your sources, if you use quotations.

PART A

In the past decades, there have been major changes in the teaching and practice of the Episcopal Church regarding Holy Baptism, Confirmation, and admission to Communion.

(a) Describe these changes and their rationale.

(b) Assume that an influential member of your parish asks you, as rector, about baptizing his newly-born grandchild. The child's parents live in the community but are not active in any church, nor do they intend to be so. What do you tell him? What theological, liturgical and pastoral issues do you see involved in your response?

(c) In the same parish, the Lutheran wife of one of your parishioners wishes to become a member of the parish. With regard to the Anglican understanding of Confirmation, what questions arise as you deal with the admission into the parish of a person who has previously been fully initiated into the Lutheran Church?

PARTS B and C are shown
on the following
pages.

Page 2 is on the reverse of this sheet.

PART B

Answer either (1) or (2)

(1) As part of the dialogue between your parish and a nearby Lutheran parish and in preparation for a celebration both of Martin Luther's 500th anniversary and of the 150th anniversary of the Oxford Movement, a brochure has been prepared; it includes the following quotations:

> Therefore, if we recognize the great and precious things which are given us, as Paul says (Rom. 5:5), our hearts will be filled by the Holy Spirit with the love which makes us free, joyful, almighty workers and conquerors over all tribulations, servants of our neighbors and yet lords of all. For those who do not recognize the gifts bestowed upon them through Christ, however, Christ has been born in vain; they go their way with their works and shall never come to taste or feel these things...; of Christ we have made only a taskmaster far harsher than Moses.
>
> Luther's Works (55 vols.), ed. J. Pelikan, H. J. Grimm, H. T. Lehmann, Vol. 31 (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1957), pp. 367-68.

> All things that we have to learn are difficult at first, and our duties to God, and to man for His sake, are peculiarly difficult, because they call upon us to take up a new life, and quit the love of this world for the next....The Gospel must be a burden before it comforts and brings us peace....Religion is in itself at first a weariness to the worldly mind, and it requires an effort and a self-denial in everyone who honestly determines to be religious.
>
> John Henry Newman, Parochial and Plain Sermons (new impression, 8 vols., Westminster, Md.: Christian Classics, Inc., 1966-68), I(1966) p.24.

An interested participant in the dialogue notes what appears to be a theological contradiction between Luther's and Newman's positions. What is this apparent theological contradiction? In what ways are their positions similar? In what ways are they contradictory?

OR

(2) The Oxford Movement relied heavily upon Sacred Tradition in the formulation of its theological position. For example, one of the contributions of the Movement was publication of an English version of the works of the Fathers.

(a) What did the Oxford reformers mean by Tradition?

(b) What are the differences among Sacred Tradition, custom and traditions?

(c) What is the importance of the concept of Tradition in the life of the Church today?

Page 3 is on following sheet.

PART C

Answer ONE of the following questions (1), (2), or (3)

(1) A young Marine in your parish was killed in the bombing of Marine headquarters in Beirut. Fellow parishioners, seeking to help the parents, have found the father and the mother responding to their grief in different ways.

His father says, "I'm proud that in doing his duty my son made the supreme sacrifice for his country."

His mother says, "I know that my son is with God, but why did it have to be my son?"

You had prepared a session on Job for your adult class, but as the parents' responses have affected some of the class, you feel that you ought to deal with their questions.

What are the theological dimensions of the parents' responses?

How would you integrate their responses into your lesson on Job?

OR

(2) A Christian Arab whose family has lived in Jerusalem for centuries has recently moved from the Middle East to your city. He has become involved in an argument with a non-Arab Christian he has met; that person claims that Israel was given the Promised Land by God. The Christian Arab wants to know how one arrives at an understanding of the will of God in this matter.

He asks you, "Is it God's purpose that my family leave the Holy Land, after having lived there for centuries, so that Jews may have a homeland?"

(a) Are ancient Israel and the modern State of Israel to be equated? Explain.

(b) How would you use the Bible in determining how to answer the Christian Arab's question?

OR

(3) Pick either (i) or (ii). Delineate the religious beliefs inherent in the situation you have chosen and explain how they undergird the decision and the action taken.

(It is to be noted that these situations do not reflect actions of individual conviction alone, but emerge out of communities of belief.)

State your own position with regard to the situation you have chosen and explain why you hold it.

(i) A 12-year-old girl agrees with her parents that she will refuse medical attention for her cancer because they believe that the immediate action of God will heal her;

(ii) An Islamic driver smashes his explosive-laden truck into a barracks full of U.S. Marines; he believes that he is being obedient to God, and has been fortified in this belief by his religious leaders.

1984 GOE CLOSED-BOOK TEST
Scripture Questions

Be kind to your Readers and write as legibly as you can. Write on only one side of the paper. Use letter-size paper (8½ x 11), not legal size. Black ink on white paper. PUT YOUR EXAMINATION NUMBER AND PAGE NUMBER ON THE TOP RIGHT CORNER OF EACH PAGE, thus:

84-000
Scr.-p.1

(The designation Scr. (for "Scripture") will help us to keep your pages in order and distinct from the "Coffee-Hour" test which you took this morning.) Please paper-clip all your pages together.

During the next TWO HOURS write an essay which answers ONE of the two following questions. You may have with you only the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer to use as resources during this time. If you finish in less than 2 hours, you may turn in your papers.

****

1. An adult member of your Confirmation Class notices in the text of the Eucharist the sentence, "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast." She says to you, "That sounds as if it might have come from the Bible."

   Did it? And if it did, what does it mean?

OR

2. In the course of your preaching you will have the opportunity of relating themes in the Old and New Testaments. Among them are the ways in which the New Testament refers to Jesus by using concepts or images that have their origins in the Old Testament.

   There are at least a dozen of these concepts or images. Discuss as many as you can in the time allowed, being sure to deal with at least five.

1984 GOE CLOSED-BOOK TEST
"Coffee-Hour" Questions

Be kind to your Readers and write as legibly as you can. Write on only one side of the paper. Use letter-size paper (8½ x 11), not legal size. Black ink on white paper. PUT YOUR EXAMINATION NUMBER AND PAGE NUMBER ON THE TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER OF EACH PAGE, thus:

84-000
CH-p.1...

(The designation CH (for "Coffee Hour") will help us to keep your pages in order and distinct from the Scripture Closed-Book test which you take this afternoon.)
Please paper-clip all your pages together.

You have TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS to respond to all of the following ten statements as they would be made to you during the coffee hour or at the church door. Write a paragraph or so for each question. If you finish in less than 2½ hours, you may turn in your papers.

****

1. "What do you think of having a place for people's ashes to be interred in, here on church property?"

2. "This is my first visit to an Episcopal church. Why do you pray out of a book?"

3. "Why do we call the diocese the primary unit of the Church? I thought the parish was."

4. "I heard someone mention the 'Filioque clause'. What's that?"

5. "Someone came to my door and said that Armageddon was coming. Who or what is that?"

6. "Somebody told me our Church is giving money to terrorist organizations. Why are we doing that?"

7. "Why do we call our ministers 'priests'?"

8. "Does the Episcopal Church believe in divorce? My sister was divorced and wants to be re-married in the Episcopal Church."

9. "Isn't tithing just another kind of legalism?"

10. "I tell you, if you have a woman celebrate our Service again, I am cancelling my pledge."