



PONTIFICAL  
FACULTY  
OF  
THEOLOGY

## Spring 2026 Semester Course

### DT840: Theology of Pope Benedict XVI (3cr)

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the person of Joseph Ratzinger, a man has become Pope at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century who had already shaped the Catholic Church in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century more than any other single person, save John Paul II. As university professor he directed over fifty doctoral candidates, as a scholar he authored over 1,600 titles, as peritus he contributed in central ways to the II. Vatican Council, as archbishop he pastored a major see, and as prefect of the CDF he gave Catholic faith in her dialogue with the world a distinctive theological profile. This course will examine the origins and the gravitational centers in Pope Benedict XVI's Christology and understanding of liturgy. It will explore his staurocentric view and its attendant ramifications on his understanding of the nature of the Church.



**REV. EMERY  
DE GAAL, Ph.D.**

Fr. de Gaal is a Professor of Dogmatic Theology at USML.

Click here to read his profile:

<https://usml.edu/staff/rev-emery-de-gaal-ph-d/>

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