



**SACRED HEART**  
Theological Institute  
GOZO, MALTA

Affiliated to the  
Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Rome)

DIRECTORY no. 1

**2025 – 2026**

Triq Enrico Mizzi, Victoria VCT 2042, Gozo, Malta.

Tel. (+356) 2155 6479

e. [director.theologicalinst@chuchingozo.mt](mailto:director.theologicalinst@chuchingozo.mt)

The building that now houses the Seminary knows its origin to the munificence of several persons who in 1778 decided to erect a new hospital for women in the island of Gozo. Bishop Labini laid and blessed the foundation stone on 3 May 1783. Work progressed briskly under the direction of Don Gannmarija Cauchi and, due especially to the voluntary work by many Gozitans the new St Julian Hospital was soon able to receive the first patients. It consisted of two halls of a letter L and had a capacity for fifty beds. Some beds were reserved for incurables and there was a maternity corner for unwed mothers. In 1838, its scope was greatly reduced as the Saint John the Baptist Hospital for males, situated across the street from St Julian Hospital (the present complex of the Ministry for Gozo), opened its doors for females.

On 16 September 1864, Pope Blessed Pius IX, had through the Bull *Singulare Amore* established the diocese of Gozo and Comino. It had, among other things, stipulated that the diocese open its own seminary and indicated the former hospital as its venue. It was the promoters of the Diocese who had earmarked the building for this noble scope, a suggestion that was endorsed by the Holy See. Mgr Francesco Buttigieg, the first bishop of Gozo, ordered the implementation of this demand. The St Julian Hospital closed down on 30 November 1864.

Monsignor Pietro Pace, the Vicar General and the chief promoter of the Diocese, engaged a Roman architect to prepare a plan for its conversion. Through the efforts of the indefatigable Pace, its conversion soon got under way. On 28 May 1865, Bishop Buttigieg requested Pierre-Jean Beckx, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, to permit the Sicilian Jesuits to take over the direction and running of the new seminary. He graciously accepted and, on 11 September 1866, three Jesuits arrived from Sicily to assume the responsibility of the new seminary: Fr Antonio Tommasi sj, who was to be the first Rector, Fr Salvatore di Pietro sj, the first Minister and master of Mathematics and Physics, and Brother Antonio Ardagna sj.

Bishop Buttigieg, who had worked so hard to set this new venture on a stable and solid basis, unfortunately died the previous July and the official opening was delayed until the election of his successor. The inauguration eventually took place on 4 November 1866, in the afternoon. The ceremony was presided over by Bishop Paolo Micallef oesa, Apostolic Administrator for Gozo, and Fr Pietro Fontana sj, Provincial of the Province of Sicily of the Society of Jesus. Mgr Pietro Pace, the Vicar General and, later, Bishop of Gozo (1877-89) and Archbishop of Malta (1889-1914) delivered the inauguration address. In remembrance of the inauguration three marble coats-of-arms were eventually placed over the entrance of the *Seminario del Gozo*: that of Pope Pius IX, flanked by those of Bishop Labini on the left and Bishop Buttigieg on the right. The previous 15 September, Pace had blessed the new Seminary chapel, initially dedicated to St Julian, but, since 8 December 1866, rededicated to the Immaculate Conception. On that day, Fr Salvatore Spinelli sj, the spiritual director, founded the Marian Congregation with sixteen members.

The Jesuits did much to enhance the standard of education at the Seminary and, indeed, its reputation spread far and wide. So much so that, from the very beginning, not only the sons of the best families in Gozo, but also many intellectually talented boys from Malta and even from Sicily, attended the Jesuit-run Seminary. In the Minor Seminary, boys were prepared for the University of Malta Matriculation Examination and many were those who obtained brilliant results. The Major Seminary made a very good name for itself for the quality and high standard of its studies and for the number of holy and zealous priests it turned out.

On 24 June 1881, during the rectorship of Fr Vincenzo Deccorati sj, the Seminary was solemnly consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and henceforth named *Seminarium Gaudisiense SS. Cordis*. The Seminary soon entered the international scene. On 1 November 1882, Bishop Pietro Pace inaugurated a Meteorological Observatory atop the highest point of the Seminary. This was immediately affiliated as the 170th station of the *Rete Meteorologica Italiana*. The reports of the station, that operated until 1909, were from 1885 published in the *Summary and Review of International Meteorological Observations* printed monthly by the War Department of Washington dc.

The Seminary had in the meantime became the centre of many ecclesiastical and cultural activities of the diocese. The Jesuits held meetings for priests, gave public lectures and talks, held religious activities, and produced dramatic shows for the families of seminarians and people at large, many of whom came even from Malta.

Owing to administrative difficulties, as well as to shortness of personnel, the Sicilian Jesuits left the Seminary on 9 August 1909. Bishop Giovanni-Maria Camilleri, fourth bishop of Gozo, handed over its running to diocesan priests. In the initial months, the Rector was an Italian priest but, since 1910 most of the rectors were Gozitans. Between 1970 and 1997, the *Sacred Heart Seminary*, as it is now known, was again directed by a Jesuit priest.

The Seminary, under the guidance of Mgr Anton Teuma, the ninth bishop of Gozo, still enjoys to a great extent the good name it originally achieved. The immense influence that it had in the educational and cultural fields in Gozo and beyond cannot be denied particularly when one realizes that for a long time it was practically the only secondary school in Gozo and that a vast number of priests, men of profession, civil servants and businessmen, from both Gozo and Malta, owe their secondary education to the Seminary.

By a decree of 13 April 1994, the *Congregation for Catholic Education* affiliated the Seminary to the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas in Rome, and the seminarians who successfully complete the course of Philosophy and Theology are conferred with the degree of Baccalaureate in Theology by the University.

Around 650 Gozo-born priests and a number from Malta owe their training to the *Sacred Heart Seminary*. Among its ex-alumni, the Gozo Seminary is proud to number seven bishops, three former Presidents of the Republic of Malta, a Prime Minister, and four Chief Justices.

In accordance with the provisions of the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* (2017), on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2023, Bishop Anton Teuma established the Sacred Heart Theological Institute as a distinct and autonomous academic body within the Seminary premises. The Institute is likewise open to lay students wishing to pursue advanced studies in

philosophy and theology. By a decree of the Dicastery for Culture and Education dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025, the newly founded Institute was formally affiliated with the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas. Its first academic year was subsequently inaugurated on 29<sup>th</sup> September of the same year.



DICASTERIUM  
DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE



DICASTERIUM  
DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE

Prot. N. 04659/2025 – 282/2023  
(hic numerus in responsione referatur)

Reverendissimo Padre,

con la Sua pregiata Lettera del 9 luglio 2025 (Prot. N. 52/24/087), Vostra Paternità, in qualità di Gran Cancelliere della Pontificia Università San Tommaso d'Aquino *in Urbe*, ha chiesto l'approvazione di questo Dicastero per l'affiliazione del *Sacred Heart Institute*, a Gozo, Malta, alla Facoltà di Teologia della suddetta Università.

Questo Dicastero è lieto di approvare gli Statuti per un periodo sperimentale di cinque anni, con la condizione di operare una modifica: togliere la parola «*sacred*» dal nome del titolo, chiamandolo il *Baccalaureate in Theology*. Questa decisione segue la normativa della Costituzione Apostolica *Veritatis gaudium* (cf. art. 74). Inoltre, il cambio di nome serve a unificare le diciture dei titoli ecclesiastici in tutto l'ambito mondiale degli studi teologici. Le chiediamo di inviarci il nuovo statuto appena possibile.

Il Dicastero approva anche il piano di studi, allegato agli Statuti, per lo stesso periodo di tempo. Ricordiamo che, secondo la normativa, «eventuali modifiche agli Statuti o all'ordinamento degli studi necessitano dell'approvazione [del Dicastero per la Cultura e l'Educazione]» (*Veritatis gaudium*, art. 89 §2).

Cogliamo l'occasione per esprimere i sensi del nostro distinto ossequio e professarci

della Paternità Vostra Reverendissima  
devotissimi nel Signore

*José Tolentino Card. de Mendonça*

José Tolentino Card. DE MENDONÇA  
Prefetto

*Matthias Ambros*,  
Mons. Matthias AMBROS  
Sotto-Segretario

(due allegati)

Al Rev.mo P. Gerard Francisco TIMONER, III, O.P.  
Maestro dell'Ordine dei Frati Predicatori  
Gran Cancelliere della Pontificia Università San Tommaso d'Aquino *in Urbe*  
= ROMA =

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DICASTERIUM DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE, attentis litteris postulatoris ab Rev.mo Magno Cancellario Pontificie Universitatis Sancti Thomae Aquinatis in Urbe legitime præsentatis; perspectis favorabilibus sententiis Ordinarii loci atque Conferentiae Episcoporum Melitensium ad normam art. 11 *Instructionis de Affiliatione Institutorum Studiorum Superiorum Congregationis de Institutione Catholica (de Studiorum Institutis)* die VIII mensis Decembris a.D. MMXX editæ; re undique perpensa ac collatis consiliiis cum iis quorum interest, ad normam art. 63 §1 Constitutionis Apostolicae *Veritatis gaudium* necnon art. 10 §1 memoratae *Instructionis*:

Institutum  
sub titulo Sanctissimi Cordis  
Gaudisiensem

hoc Decreto canonice erigit et ad normam art. 10 §2 memoratae *Instructionis* eidem Institutu personalitatem iuridicam publicam canonicam concedit, simulque idem

Facultati Theologiae  
Pontificie Universitatis Sancti Thomae Aquinatis in Urbe

affiliat affiliatumque declarat ad quinquennium experimenti gratia ex primo cyclo constans, ad academicum gradum scilicet Baccalaureatus in Theologia per Facultatem affiliatam consequendum, sub ductu et vigilantia eiusdem Facultatis positum; servatis peculiaribus Statutis ab hoc Dicasterio approbatis; ceteris servatis de iure servandis; contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Datum e Civitate Vaticana, ex ædibus eiusdem Dicasterii, die XXV mensis Iulii, a. D. MMXXV.

*Joséphus T. Card. De Mendonça*  
PRAEFECTUS

*Matthias Ambros*,  
SUBSECRETARIUS

Prot. N. 04659/2025 – 282/2023



DICASTERIUM  
DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE

DICASTERIUM DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE, lectis perpensisque Statutis Instituti sub titulo Sanctissimi Cordis, Gaudisiensis, Facultati Theologiae Pontificiae Universitatis Sancti Thomae Aquinatis in Urbe academice affiliati, ad normam art. 8 §1 *Instructionis de Affiliatione Institutorum Studiorum Superiorum Congregationis de Institutione Catholica (de Studiorum Institutis)* die VIII mensis Decembris a.D. MMXX editae recognitis, que in eorundem XXVI articulis definitur ac statuuntur, rata habet et ad quinquennium experimenti gratia approbat isisque, ad quos pertinet, ut rite observentur praecepit; ceteris servatis de iure servandis; contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Datum e Civitate Vaticana, ex aedibus eiusdem Dicasterii, die XXV mensis Iulii, a. D. MMXXV.

*Josephus T. Card. De Nava*

PRÆFECTUS

*Julian Pau*

SUBSECRETARIUS

Prot. N. 04659/2025 - 282/2023

# STATUTES

## of the Sacred Heart Theological Institute Gozo – Malta

### Article 1. Nature and Scope of the Institute

**Section 1.01** These statutes govern the Sacred Heart Theological Institute of the Diocese of Gozo, Malta (the “Institute”).

**Section 1.02** The purpose of the Institute is to link it to the ecclesiastical Faculty of Theology (the “Faculty”) at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas *in Urbe* (“PUST”) with the aim of attaining, via PUST, the corresponding academic degree of the first cycle, i.e., the Baccalaureate in Theology (BTheol).

**Section 1.03** The scope of the Institute is to provide adequate theological knowledge in conformity with the intent of the Catholic Church and in due consideration for the requirements and capabilities of the local Christian community. The Institute is open to the Seminarians of the Diocese of Gozo, members of institutes of consecrated life, and the lay faithful called to proclaim the Gospel and to serve the Church and the world, in accordance with their own vocation and mission.

**Section 2.04** The Institute’s origins trace back to 1866, when the Gozo Seminary was officially inaugurated. Its administration was initially entrusted to the Sicilian Jesuits. It welcomed students from Gozo, Malta, and Sicily, offering a curriculum divided into the Minor Seminary, which prepared students for the University of Malta Matriculation Examination, and the Major Seminary, which focused on philosophical and theological studies for the priesthood.

In 1881, the Seminary was solemnly consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and subsequently named *Seminarium Gaudisiense SS. Cordis*. Between 1882 and 1909, a Meteorological Observatory was established within the Seminary and was affiliated as the 170th station of the *Rete Meteorologica Italiana*.

After 1909, diocesan priests took over its administration, except for a period between 1970 and 1997 when it was again led by a Jesuit priest. On April 13, 1994, by a decree of the Congregation for Catholic Education,

the Seminary was affiliated with the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome. Seminarians who successfully complete the Philosophy and Theology courses are awarded the degree of Baccalaureate in Theology by the University.

To date, approximately 650 Gozo-born priests, along with several from Malta, have received their training at the Sacred Heart Seminary. Among its distinguished alumni, the Seminary counts seven bishops, three former Presidents of the Republic of Malta, a Prime Minister, and four Chief Justices. The Seminary also continues to contribute to the ecclesiastical and cultural life of the diocese.

## Article 2. Governance

**Section 1.01** The Institute operates in collaboration with Sacred Heart Major Seminary, a canonically erected diocesan seminary of the Diocese of Gozo, which serves as a house of formation for candidates to the ministerial priesthood. The Institute and the Seminary, while sharing the same purpose of fostering academic formation, operate under distinct and independent governance and administrative structures.

### (b) Relationship between the Institute and the Seminary

- (i) The Institute will make use of facilities made available by the Seminary, including but not limited to library and classroom space.
- (ii) The Rector of the Seminary oversees the academic progress of individual seminarians within the Seminary as part of the fourfold dimensions of priestly formation, ensuring alignment with the Seminary's mission.
- (iii) The Rector does not serve as an academic authority for the Institute.

**Section 2.03** As an affiliated institute, the academic authorities of PUST also serve as the *ipso iure* academic authorities of the Institute including the Dean of the Faculty at PUST, the Rector Magnificus of PUST, and the Grand Chancellor of PUST ("Grand Chancellor"), whose authority over the Institute is governed by these statutes and the provisions of *Veritatis gaudium*, and its norms and instructions.

**Section 2.04** In addition to these, the Institute is governed by:

- (a) the diocesan bishop of the Diocese of Gozo, Malta, as the Moderator of the Institute (the "Moderator");
- (b) a director (the "Director"), who is chosen in accordance with the provisions below;
- (c) the Institute Council, whose composition and duties are described below (the "Council" and each member being a "Council Member").

### Section 2.04 The Moderator:

- (a) The duties of the Moderator include:
  - (i) to seek approbation from the Faculty of the names of those to be appointed or confirmed as Director or permanent professors of the Institute;
  - (ii) to receive the profession of faith from the Director by delegation of the Grand Chancellor of PUST;
  - (iii) to give or withdraw permission to teach or the canonical mission to teachers by delegation of the Grand Chancellor of PUST, in accordance with the norms of the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* and its ordinances; and
  - (iv) to appoint the Institute's Financial Procurator and the Institute's Librarian, in consultation with the Director and the Rector.
- (b) Unless stated otherwise, the delegation of authority by the Grand Chancellor to the Moderator as his delegate is granted in a stable manner. This delegation can be revoked or modified at any time at the discretion of the Grand Chancellor.

### Section 2.03 The Director

- (a) The Director, who should be chosen from among the permanent teachers of the Institute, is appointed by the Moderator, on the recommendation of the Institute professors, for a five-year term, which may be renewed once. The name and qualifications of the Director so chosen must be transmitted by the Moderator to the Faculty to confirm that he or she is suitably qualified for the position.

(b) At the beginning of his office, the Director shall make the profession of faith to the Chancellor or his delegate.

(c) The duties of the Director include:

- (i) governing the Institute in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* and its norms as well as the Instruction on the Affiliation of Institutes of Higher Studies issued by the Dicastery for Culture and Education and the present Statutes;
- (ii) ensuring that the data of the Institute are updated annually and transmitted to the Faculty in the electronic form required for updating to the Dicastery for Culture and Education;
- (iii) preparing the dossier on the results received from affiliation with the Faculty for the purpose of the renewal of affiliation;
- (iv) setting up suitable channels of cooperation with other academic institutions;
- (v) convening and chairing the Institute Council and setting the agenda for each meeting; and
- (vi) acting through the Institute's Secretariat on the admission and assessments of students.

#### *Section 2.04 The Rector*

- (a) The Rector represents the interests of the Sacred Heart Major Seminary and assures the harmonious collaboration between the Institute and the Major Seminary.
- (b) The Rector is an *ex officio* member of the Institute Council and a member of the Financial Committee.
- (c) The Rector's approval is required by the Director in issues related to logistics and the use of the Major Seminary's premises or that may affect the Major Seminary's programme of formation.

#### *Section 2.04 The Institute Council*

(a) The Institute Council shall include:

- (i) all permanent teachers of the Institute;
- (ii) two non-permanent teachers, elected in a meeting of the academic staff;
- (iii) the Rector of the Major Seminary as an *ex officio* member; and
- (iv) a Student Representative elected annually by the students at the beginning of the academic year.

(b) The Institute Council operates under the chairmanship of the Director.

(c) The members of the Institute Council are co-responsible for the common good with the Director and the Moderator and work with them to further the goals of the Institute.

(d) The Council shall meet no less than 3 times per year on dates and at times determined by the Director.

(e) The duties of the Institute Council shall include:

- (i) approving the program of studies in theology and philosophy and assisting in their proper implementation;
- (ii) discussing the ongoing academic activity of the Institute;
- (iii) reviewing existing programs and their effectiveness to reach the set objectives; and
- (iv) approving the annual budget of the Institute, which is prepared by the Financial Committee (see Section 7.02(c)).

(f) Teachers are members of the Institute Council as follows:

- (i) permanent teachers are members for the duration of their role as permanent teachers;
- (ii) non-permanent teachers serve as members for a term of five years following their election.

(g) Voting and quorum requirements

- (i) A quorum of at least 50% of the Council members must be present for a meeting to proceed and for any votes to be valid.

- (ii) Decisions of the Council shall be made by an absolute majority (50% + 1) of those present and voting.
- (iii) The Student Representative may not vote on and, at the discretion of the Director, may be excluded from discussion related to matters involving the Director, the teachers, or the discipline of students.

### Article 3. Teachers

*Section 3.01* The Institute includes both permanent and non-permanent teachers. The minimum number of permanent teachers required for the Institute is nine (9), seven (7) in theology and two (2) in philosophy. Given the Institute's special responsibility for the theological and scientific formation of candidates for the priesthood and those preparing for specific ecclesiastical offices, at least 60% of the teaching staff must be priests.

*Section 3.02* All teachers must be qualified to teach in their relative field of instruction, in accordance with the requirements of *Veritatis Gaudium* and its implementing norms. Teachers belonging to other non-Catholic churches or ecclesial communities require a dispensation *ad casum* from the Dicastery for Culture and Education before teaching doctrinal courses. The Institute shall inform the Faculty if such dispensation is sought, so that the request may be made through the office of the Grand Chancellor of PUST.

*Section 3.03* In addition to the above, all teachers should meet the following requirements:

- (a) possession of pedagogical aptitude, adequate preparation and training in this area;
- (b) receive an on-going academic formation, especially in their particular subjects;
- (c) conduct a life in keeping with sound morals; and
- (d) have a sense of responsibility and dedication in their post.

*Section 3.05* All teachers of the Institute must be free from duties incompatible with their duties to instruct and research.

*Section 3.06* All teachers who teach disciplines concerning faith and morals must:

- (g) make the Profession of Faith to the Grand Chancellor or his delegate at the start of their tenure;
- (h) having made their Profession of Faith, receive the canonical mission from the Grand Chancellor or his delegate, following a request made by the Director.

### Section 3.09 Permanent Teachers

- (a) Permanent teachers of the Institute receive their canonical mission from the Grand Chancellor or his delegate.
- (b) Permanent teachers are appointed by the Moderator upon presentation by the Director. The appointment is subject to the *nihil obstat* of the Dean of the Faculty.
- (c) Permanent teachers are selected from among those who have already been teaching at the Institute for at least five years. Selection is made with due reference to teaching skill, research accomplishments, the publication of scientific works, the spirit of cooperation in teaching and research, and commitment to the Institute.
- (d) The appointment of the secular clergy and members of religious institutes or societies of apostolic life requires the written consent of their proper Ordinary or superior.
- (e) Permanent teachers hold equal rank within the Institute.
- (f) Permanent teachers are members of the Institute Council.

### Section 3.07 Non-Permanent Teachers

- (a) Non-Permanent teachers are appointed by the Director to teach specific courses in the three-year cycle of the program of studies, with each non-permanent teacher normally expected to teach no more than one course each semester and a total of three courses within a single three-year cycle of studies.

(b) The appointment of a non-permanent teacher is subject to the review of the Faculty to verify that he or she is suitably qualified. This review is carried out following the transmission to the Faculty of the candidate's name and *curriculum vitae, studiorum et operum*, with the expected outcome being the granting of a *nihil obstat* by the Dean of the Faculty.

### Section 3.03 Rights and Duties of Teachers

- (a) The post of teacher can be adequately fulfilled only in full communion with the Church, first and foremost with the Supreme Pontiff. The teachers should transmit in their teaching first and foremost the doctrinal patrimony of the Church. The opinion, hypothesis, and judgement of other academics or of the teacher himself should be presented as being their own.
- (b) All teachers should participate in the activities of the Institute: give lessons, set examinations, follow the students in their papers, and attend meetings for the academic staff called when necessary by the Institute.
- (c) The teachers should be at the disposition of students to meet them and to help them in their field of studies when asked to do so by the students.
- (d) Research, updates, and publication of scientific literature form an integral part of a teacher's remit.

### Section 3.05 Loss of the *Missio Canonica*

- (a) The *missio canonica* is lost by the lapse of a predetermined time, by reaching the age determined by law, by resignation, by suspension and by withdrawal.
- (b) The teacher ends his *missio canonica* on completion of the academic year during which he reaches the age of 70. This takes effect upon communication in writing by the Moderator.
- (c) A dispensation may be sought from the Dicastery for Culture and Education to extend the teacher's appointment until the age

of 75, in which case the renewal of the *missio canonica* shall not be required.

- (d) The *missio canonica* may cease through the teacher's personal resignation, submitted in writing to the Director or Moderator. It is advisable that, where feasible, sufficient time is provided to ensure a smooth transition.
- (e) A teacher's *missio canonica* may be suspended or withdrawn by the Grand Chancellor or his delegate, only in accordance with the provisions of the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* and the applicable norms of these Statutes.
- (f) Teachers may be disciplined according to the procedures set forth in *Section 3.09(h)*. if their conduct or actions compromise, or have the potential to compromise in a grave manner the mission and values of the Institute.
- (g) Grievous infractions of these duties include, but are not limited to, the following, and any other conduct deemed to constitute a serious violation of the Institute's mission, values, or ethical standards:
  - (i) teaching doctrines condemned by the Church or those harmful to students;
  - (ii) engaging in external behavior contrary to Catholic moral teaching;
  - (iii) engaging in personal conduct or scandals outside the teaching context that indirectly harm the teacher's professional reputation or the standing of the Institute;
  - (iv) committing plagiarism in scientific publications;
  - (v) disclosing to students the questions set for forthcoming written or oral examinations;
  - (vi) removing books or other academic materials from the library or Institute premises without proper authorization;
  - (vii) failing to deliver a significant number of lectures without justification;

- (viii) sexual misconduct within the context of teaching, including breaches of professional boundaries.
- (h) When the Moderator has knowledge, which at least seems true, of infractions outlined in *Section 3.09(g)*, he must act in accordance with the following procedures:
  - (i) the Moderator shall inquire personally or through another suitable person about the facts, circumstances, and imputability, unless such an inquiry seems entirely superfluous;
  - (ii) the Moderator shall instruct the Director to summon the affected teacher to address the matter privately, unless the nature of the issue renders private resolution impracticable;
  - (iii) if the matter remains unresolved, the Director, in consultation with the Moderator, shall convene an ad hoc Review Committee. This committee shall consist of no fewer than three and no more than five qualified individuals with diverse academic and administrative expertise, external to the Institute;
  - (iv) the Review Committee is tasked with conducting an impartial investigation into the allegations and providing recommendations based on the evidence collected;
  - (v) in more grave or urgent cases, the Grand Chancellor or his delegate may impose a suspension on the teacher for the duration of the regular procedure during which the institute shall remain obligated to continue the teacher's remuneration;
  - (vi) in cases where the issue remains unresolved, the Moderator informs the Grand Chancellor of PUST who with the help of experts, considers the matter and provides a solution;
  - (vii) any decision, recommendation, or penalty shall be promptly communicated and formally notified to the affected teacher by the Moderator or Director. If applicable, the notification shall include information on the procedures and avenues available to challenge the decision;
  - (viii) in all stages of the procedure, the teacher's right to be informed and to explain and defend himself ought to be guaranteed;
  - (ix) the Director must ensure that the teacher is duly informed, provided with an opportunity to defend themselves, and if

necessary, duly given assistance in making recourse to the Holy See. This includes facilitating the teacher's right to seek a definite solution from the Holy See (VG, art. 24 §2; CIC cann. 1732-1739).

- (i) In the case of sexual misconduct (*Section 3.09(g)(viii)*), the Director passes on the relative information to the Safeguarding Commission of the Diocese to investigate the case according to the procedures of the Diocese, and the recommendations or decisions taken by the Safeguarding Commission will be implemented.
- (j) In accordance with the findings of the prescribed process, should a teacher be determined to have violated the provisions of this statute, the Director is authorized to impose one or more of the following penalties: a monitum, temporary suspension, termination of the *missio canonica*, or any other penalty deemed just and appropriate in the circumstances.
- (k) In the whole process care must be taken so that the good name of anyone is not unjustly jeopardised in this process (can. 220).

#### **Article 4. Students**

*Section 4.01* The Institute is open to all students (ecclesiastic or lay).

*Section 4.02* All students admitted to the Institute must meet the academic requirements for enrolment and give proper testimony to their moral conduct. The academic requirements are those stipulated for admission into the University of Malta, namely:

- (a) a Matriculation Certificate, consisting of six subjects - two at Advanced Level, three at Intermediate Level, and Systems of Knowledge. The subjects must include a language, a science subject, and a humanistic subject;
- (b) a Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) in which applicants must achieve a pass at grade 5 or better in English Language, Maltese, and Mathematics.

**Section 4.03** Whenever, for a serious reason, a person may lack normal documentation, as in the cases of refugees, exiles and similarly situated persons, the Director assesses the case and sets up an *ad hoc* examination commission to establish whether the applicant meets the necessary academic standards needed for tertiary education.

**Section 4.04** To enrol in the first year of Theology for the Baccalaureate are required two years of study in philosophy. This is ordinarily done in the first two years of the program at the Institute. If not, the student must submit proof of having properly completed a two-year course in philosophy at an Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy or at an approved institution. A Baccalaureate in Philosophy obtained in a non-Ecclesiastical Faculty does not give grounds for dispensing a student completely from the first-cycle philosophy courses in Theology Faculties.

**Section 4.05** The University has regular students and auditor students. Auditor students are non-degree-seeking students who may be permitted to enrol in specific courses, provided they attend the course in its entirety. Their participation is subject to evaluation by the Institute Council to ensure it does not interfere with the progress or learning experience of regular students. All other students are regular students.

#### **Section 4.06** Rights and Duties of Students

- (a) All students have access to all the structures and academic services provided by the Institute.
- (b) The students have the right to elect a representative in the Institute Council and to personally inform the Director of their suggestions and complaints.
- (c) The students are obliged to attend the lessons and other activities which do not fall within the ordinary academic timetable. The Director should be informed beforehand of any absence, or the absence should otherwise be justified with valid reasons.
- (d) On enrolment, the students are obliged to observe the statute and the regulations of the Institute.

#### **Section 4.05** Suspension of Students

- (a) Students who engage in conduct or activities which may compromise the Institute's mission and values may subject them to discipline according to the procedures set forth below.
- (b) Serious breaches include, but are not limited to, the following, and any other conduct deemed to compromise seriously the Institute's mission, values, or ethical standards:
  - (i) external behaviour contrary to the Catholic moral teaching;
  - (ii) plagiarism in papers or other written work as stipulated in the Regulations on Plagiarism of the Institute;
  - (iii) acquisition of the examination paper before the written session or the questions set for the oral examination;
  - (iv) communication with third persons during an examination session regarding the content of the examination;
  - (v) taking without permission books or other academic material from the library or from the premises used by the Institute;
  - (vi) unjustified absence for a considerable number of lectures;
  - (vii) sexual misconduct within the context of learning, including breaches of appropriate boundaries with lecturers, staff, or fellow students;
  - (viii) any other conduct occurring within or in connection with the class, whether directed at students, lecturers, or the learning environment, that contravenes generally accepted standards of ethical student behaviour, including but not limited to acts of harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or any action that disrupts or undermines the integrity, respect, and decorum essential to the educational setting.
- (c) Failure to comply with the rules may result in temporary suspension or, in the case of serious breaches, permanent dismissal.
- (d) In case of a serious breach of any of the above:
  - (i) the disciplinary procedure shall commence with an interview between the Director and the student;

- (ii) if the matter is not resolved during the initial interview, it shall be referred to the Institute Council for further consideration, at which the Student Representative may not participate;
- (iii) students shall have the right to be informed of the charges and the evidence against them, and to present their case and provide a defence;
- (iv) in cases of particular seriousness or urgency, where the good of the students and the faithful are at stake, the Director may temporarily expel the student until the normal disciplinary procedure is concluded.
- (e) In the case of sexual misconduct (*Section 4.07(b)(vii)*), the Director passes on the relative information to the Safeguarding Commission of the Diocese to investigate the case according to the procedures of the Diocese, and the recommendations or decisions taken by the Safeguarding Commission will be implemented.

#### *Section 4.06 Financial Assistance*

- (a) Students at the Institute are entitled to a maintenance grant, which is provided annually to students enrolled in tertiary educational institutions by the Maltese government.
- (b) In circumstances where a student is not eligible for the grant and is experiencing financial difficulties, the Institute may assist the student by directing them to apply for financial support from the Seminary, the local Church, or other philanthropic organisations.

### **Article 5. Program of Studies**

*Section 5.01* The Program of Studies offered by the Institute is the first-cycle of theology, at the successful completion of which students receive the Baccalaureate in Theology. The academic degree is conferred by the Faculty and will include the name of the Faculty and of PUST.

*Section 5.02* The Program of Studies for the Institute is appended to these Statutes as Appendix A. The Program of Studies may be changed from time to time in accord with *Section 2.07(e)(i)* above. Any such changes

to the Program of Studies shall be submitted to the Faculty for approval by the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

### **Article 6. Officials and Administrative and Service Personnel**

#### *Section 6.01 The Secretary*

- (a) The Secretary of the Institute, appointed by the Director for a five-year term which can be renewed, plays a crucial administrative role, supporting the institution's smooth operation and efficient communication.
- (b) The duties of the Secretary shall include:
  - (i) managing administrative tasks;
  - (ii) maintaining records;
  - (iii) assisting with academic coordination; and
  - (iv) providing support to the Institute Authorities, students and other stakeholders.

#### *Section 6.03 The Librarian*

- (a) The Librarian is appointed by the Moderator, in consultation with the Director and the Rector, for a five-year term which can be renewed.
- (b) The duties of the Librarian shall include:
  - (i) the upkeep of an adequate library and a resource centre for pastoral operators, in keeping with the needs of the teachers and students;
  - (ii) maintaining the Library correctly organized, equipped with an appropriate catalogue;
  - (iii) overseeing the acquisition of books, old and new, leading journals, online databases and pastoral resources in consultation with the Director of the Institute, so as to be able effectively to serve research, teaching of the disciplines, instructional needs, and the practical exercises and seminars.

#### *Section 6.03 Financial Procurator*

(a) The Financial Procurator is appointed by the Moderator, in consultation with the Director and the Rector for a five-year term which can be renewed.

(b) The duties of the Financial Procurator shall include:

- (i) advising the Director on financial matters;
- (ii) upkeeping the Institute Accounts in line with the Administrative Policies of the Diocese of Gozo and of Maltese legislation;
- (iii) receiving donations for the Institute and maintaining contact with the Institute's benefactors;
- (iv) submitting the annual accounts for external audit; and
- (v) issuing all payments covering the expenses of the Institute.

#### *Section 1.03 Rights relative to the Institute's Council*

(a) Officials and Administrative and Service Personnel are not members of the Institute's Council but may address it if invited by the Director, requested by the Council, or upon their own request, subject to the discretion and approval of the Council.

#### *Section 1.01 Dismissal and Rights*

(a) The Secretary, the Librarian, and the Financial Procurator, may be subject to disciplinary action or dismissal from their positions for offences classified as either minor or major, as defined below:

- (i) minor offences, which include negligence, delays in fulfilling administrative duties, failure to comply with directives, failure to perform duties satisfactorily or minor breaches of Institute rules, provided that such offences are repeated on multiple occasions after the individual has been notified in writing of the shortcoming and given an opportunity to correct their behaviour;
- (ii) major offences, which include theft, fraud or other criminal behavior, serious breach of trust or gross negligence in the performance of their duties, and criminal behaviour damaging the Institute's reputation or operations.

(b) Minor offences shall be addressed directly by the Director and the individual concerned may be formally warned in writing.

(c) Repeated minor offences or any major offence shall trigger immediate formal disciplinary proceedings and may result in suspension pending investigation.

(d) A Disciplinary Board shall be constituted to review alleged offences, determine their severity, and decide on appropriate disciplinary actions.

(e) The Board shall consist of:

- (i) the Director (or a representative) as the chairperson;
- (ii) one representative from the Institute's Council;
- (iii) an external expert in labour law or ethics

(f) The Disciplinary Board shall consider the nature and gravity of the offence, the evidence presented, and any mitigating circumstances before making a decision. Mitigating circumstances may include factors such as personal emergencies, health issues, lack of prior offences, or efforts to rectify the behaviour.

(g) The disciplinary process shall follow these timeframes:

- (i) a formal investigation must be initiated within 14 days of any reported alleged offence;
- (ii) a hearing shall take place within 30 days of the initiation of proceedings;
- (iii) a final decision on removal or other disciplinary action shall be made within 10 days of the hearing.

(h) The rights of those involved will be upheld through the following measures:

- (i) the right to be informed of the offence, present a defense, and respond to charges before any disciplinary action is taken.
- (ii) the right to legal counsel throughout the process;

- (iii) fair and transparent proceedings, adhering to natural justice and applicable labour laws;
- (iv) Protection under Article 12(1) of the Constitution of Malta and Chapter 452 of the Employment and Industrial Relations Act of the Laws of Malta, including the right to appeal to the Industrial Tribunal, as provided by the aforementioned laws.
- (i) The removal from the position may occur only following a formal disciplinary hearing.

## **Article 7. Economic Administration**

**Section 7.01** As a public juridic person,<sup>1</sup> this Institute is subject to the requirements regarding the administration of ecclesiastical goods set forth in Book V of the *Code of Canon Law*.<sup>2</sup>

**Section 7.02 The Financial Committee.**

- (a) The Financial Committee is responsible for the economic administration of the Institute.
- (b) The Financial Committee members are:
  - (i) the Director of the Institute who chairs all the meetings;
  - (ii) the Administrative Secretary within the Curia of the Diocese of Gozo;
  - (iii) the Rector of the Sacred Heart Major Seminary;
  - (iv) the Financial Procurator of the Institute; and
  - (v) a certified accountant external to the Institute.
- (c) The responsibilities of the Committee include:
  - (i) Convening at least 3 times per year on dates and at times determined by the Director;
  - (ii) Drawing up programme budgets to be approved by the Institute Council;

<sup>1</sup> See Decree of the Bishop of Gozo (NN 77/2023), 01.09.2023.

<sup>2</sup> CIC, cann. 1257 § 1, 1258.

- (iii) Approving major items of expenditure with the consent of the Moderator;
- (iv) Providing financial projections and advice on course fees, the remuneration of teachers and other officials and other financial matters pertinent to the Institute's mission and activity.

## **Article 8. Relationships with other Educational Institutions**

- (a) The Institute maintains a continuous relationship with the PUST, fostering academic collaboration and exchange of knowledge.
- (b) Some non-permanent teaching staff are engaged from local and international faculties to enrich the educational experience and provide diverse perspectives.
- (c) The Institute collaborates with the Institute of Pastoral Ministry of the Diocese to develop courses aimed at the formation of individuals who are currently active or are interested in assuming roles in pastoral ministry. This collaboration ensures the integration of practical pastoral knowledge with academic learning.
- (d) The Institute actively seeks to establish and maintain partnerships with other educational institutions, both within Malta and internationally, to strengthen its academic offerings and enhance its students' learning opportunities.

## **Article 9. Amendments**

**Section 9.01** Any amendments to these Statutes are to be discussed in the Institute Council and need the approval of the Moderator.

**Section 9.02** The amendments approved by the Moderator need to be submitted to the Grand Chancellor of PUST and to the Dicastery for Culture and Education for final confirmation.

## Appendix A

### Biennium Philosophicum

The first two years of study are mainly dedicated to philosophical formation which prepares students for the study of theology.

The plan of studies includes:

- eleven **Systematic Philosophy** courses (48 ECTS) and eight **History of Philosophy** courses (26 ECTS);
- students are also exposed to the **Human Sciences** through four courses of Introduction to **Psychology** (9 ECTS) and two courses of **Sociology** (6 ECTS);
- the Biennium also provides certain **Introductory Theology Courses** which are grouped as follows: five introductory courses in **Sacred Scripture and the Biblical Languages** (15 ECTS), two introductory courses in **Moral Theology** (4.5 ECTS), two courses of **Fundamental Theology** (5 ECTS) including the study of the relationship with other non-Christian religions, and five courses in **Other Subjects**, such as Methodology and Research Tools, Latin, Church Music and Islam (19.5 ECTS).

### Quadriennium Theologicum

The quadrennium theologicum consists of seven semesters. Students are assisted in carefully treating and deepening Catholic doctrine based on divine revelation, as well as appreciating the organic unity of the various theological and anthropological sciences. Several Pastoral and Spiritual Theology courses are also offered, with a focus on the pastoral ministry of those preparing for the priesthood, as well as the changes and challenges facing the Church and humanity at large.

The plan of studies includes:

- ten courses in **Sacred Scripture** (45 ECTS) covering the main areas of Scripture and their theology;
- four courses in **Fundamental Theology** (11 ECTS) dealing with divine revelation, faith and reason, Christian anthropology and ecumenism;

- twelve courses in **Dogmatic Theology** (44 ECTS) dealing with the Mystery of God and Christ, mariology, ecclesiology, the theology of grace and the sacraments, and eschatology;
- eight courses in **Moral Theology** (34 ECTS) both of a fundamental and special nature;
- two courses in **Sacred Liturgy** (6 ECTS);
- eight courses in **Church History and Patrology** (23 ECTS);
- six courses in **Canon Law** (15.5 ECTS) with special emphasis on the Sacrament of Marriage;
- and ten courses in **Spiritual and Pastoral Theology** (19.5 ECTS).

All courses are mandatory. Exemptions from some courses, especially of the biennium philosophicum, may be granted to students by the Director if the student has previously successfully completed similar courses, or in the case of lay individuals, for courses which are specifically related to priestly ministry.

All courses are conducted in person; however, distance learning may be offered in exceptional circumstances affecting either the student or the lecturer.

### Exams

Ordinarily, exam sessions are held at the end of each semester. Extraordinary sessions are held for those who were not successful in an examination of the previous semester or for a grave reason with the permission of the Director.

Students are evaluated by an oral or written exam or an assignment. Each semester, two assignments of approximately 5,000 words are required for two courses of 3 or more ECTS. The evaluation methods and criteria must be previously established and communicated.

### Comprehensive Exam

At the end of the quadrennium, a comprehensive exam, both written and oral is held. In the beginning of the Academic Year the student will be given the Thesaurus containing the points from all areas of theology which will indicate the subject matter on which he will be examined. In

the examination the student will have to demonstrate that he has obtained an organic and synthetic vision of catholic theology.

In the written three-hour examination, the student will be required to write an essay on a general theological subject. The written script will be evaluated by three examiners from the teaching staff chosen by the Director. The mark to be awarded for this part of the examination will be the average of the marks given by the examiners. The pass mark is 6/10.

The one-hour oral examination will be conducted by a board of three examiners chosen by the Director from the teaching staff of the Institute, together with a representative of the Angelicum appointed by the Faculty. Each examiner will examine the student for twenty minutes. The examiners and Angelicum Representative may consult one another before each of them gives his mark evaluating the student on the one-hour examination as a whole. The Angelicum Representative may intervene at any time during the examination.

The student has to pass both in written and oral part, but the over-all mark for the Comprehensive examination will be an average of the written and oral part.

### **Calculation of the final grade for the SThB**

- The marks obtained in the examination of each subject during the quadrennium will be multiplied by a coefficient (ECTS of the course) to obtain a quotient.
- The total of the coefficients (ECTS) and of the quotients are added up separately.
- The average mark of the two parts of the Comprehensive examination is multiplied by 20% of the total of the coefficients and the quotient obtained will be added to the total of the quotients.
- Then the total of all quotients will be divided by the total of all the coefficients to obtain the final grade.

# GOVERNANCE

## **Academic Authorities**

Grand Chancellor of PUST:	Rev. Fr. Gerard Timoner III OP
Rector of PUST:	Rev. Fr. Thomas Joseph White OP
Dean of the Faculty of Theology of PUST:	Rev. Fr. Dominik Jurczak OP
Moderator:	H.L. Mgr Anton Teuma, Bishop of Gozo
Director:	Rev. Fr. Noel Debono
Institute Council:	Rev. Mgr. Frankie Bajada Rev. Fr. Joseph Bajada Rev. Fr. Ignatius Borg Rev. Fr. Krystof Buttigieg Rev. Fr. Noel Debono Rev. Fr. Richard-Nazzareno Farrugia Rev. Fr. Gabriel Gauci Rev. Fr. Daniel Grech Rev. Mgr. Anthony Mizzi Rev. Mgr. Joseph Sultana Rev. Fr. Trevor Sultana Rev. Mgr. Daniel Xerri Rev. Mgr. Jimmy Xerri Rev. Br. Christopher Bilocca OFM (student representative)

Secretary: Ms. Nancy Grech  
Librarian: Rev. Fr. Joseph Attard  
Financial Procurator: Mr. Michael Portelli

## Financial Committee

Rev. Fr. Noel Debono  
Rev. Fr. Joseph Bajada  
Mr. Anthony Bezzina  
Mr. Michael Portelli  
Mr. Ismael Haber

# TEACHERS

## Permanent

Rev. Mgr. Frankie Bajada  
PhL (St. Thomas Univ., Rome)  
[arcfrankie@yahoo.com](mailto:arcfrankie@yahoo.com)

*Systematic Philosophy*

Rev. Fr. Ignatius Borg  
SThL (Lateran Univ., Rome); MA (St. Thomas Univ., Rome)  
DipArch (Pont. Inst. of Christian Archaeology, Rome)  
DipLit (Pont. Inst. of Liturgy, St. Anselm, Rome)  
DipMar (Pont. Faculty of Theology, Marianum, Rome)  
[duninjazjuborg@gmail.com](mailto:duninjazjuborg@gmail.com)

*Sacred Liturgy*

Rev. Fr. Krystof Buttigieg  
SThD (Patristic Institute, "Augustinianum", Rome)  
[krystofb@yahoo.com](mailto:krystofb@yahoo.com)

*Patrology*

Rev. Fr. Noel Debono  
SThL (Gregorian Univ., Rome)  
[director.theologicalinst@churchingozo.mt](mailto:director.theologicalinst@churchingozo.mt)

*Sacred Scripture*

Rev. Fr. Richard-Nazzareno Farrugia  
SThD (St Alphonse Inst., Rome)  
[farrugiarn@gmail.com](mailto:farrugiarn@gmail.com)

*Moral Theology*

Rev. Fr. Gabriel Gauci  
PhD (Gregorian Univ., Rome)  
[ggauci87@yahoo.com](mailto:ggauci87@yahoo.com)

*Systematic Philosophy*

Rev. Fr. Daniel Grech  
SThL (Gregorian Univ., Rome)  
[danielgrech@msn.com](mailto:danielgrech@msn.com)

*Fundamental Theology*

Rev. Mgr. Anthony Mizzi  
SSL (Biblical Inst., Rome)  
[antonmizzi26@gmail.com](mailto:antonmizzi26@gmail.com)

*Sacred Scripture, Biblical Greek*

Rev. Mgr. Joseph Sultana  
SSL (Pont. Bibl. Inst., Rome)  
[fr.j.sultana@gmail.com](mailto:fr.j.sultana@gmail.com)

*Sacred Scripture*

Rev. Fr. Trevor Sultana  
JCL (Lateran Univ., Rome)  
[trevorsultana@yahoo.com](mailto:trevorsultana@yahoo.com)

*Canon Law*

Rev. Mgr. Daniel Xerri  
SThD (Pont. Inst. Regina Apostolorum Univ., Rome)  
[frdanielxerri@gmail.com](mailto:frdanielxerri@gmail.com)

*Sacramental Theology*

Rev. Mgr. Jimmy Xerri  
PhL (St Thomas Univ., Rome)  
[jimmyxerri@tiscali.it](mailto:jimmyxerri@tiscali.it)

*History of Philosophy*

## **Non-permanent**

Rev. Fr. Geoffrey George Attard  
MTh (Edinburgh Univ.)  
MLitt (St Andrews Univ.)  
[fr.geoffrey.attard@gozoseminary.com](mailto:fr.geoffrey.attard@gozoseminary.com)

*Church History*

Rev. Fr. Joseph Attard  
Lic.BCE (Gregorian Univ., Rome)  
[frjosephattard@gmail.com](mailto:frjosephattard@gmail.com)

*Christian Archeology*

Rev. Mgr. Joseph Bezzina  
HED (Gregorian Univ., Rome)  
DipArch (Vatican Inst. of Archivists)  
DipBibl (Vatican Inst. of Librarians)  
[gozobj@gmail.com](mailto:gozobj@gmail.com)

*Church History*

Rev. Mgr. Renato Borg  
SThL (Lateran Univ., Rome)  
[borgrenato@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:borgrenato@yahoo.co.uk)

*Sociology*

Rev. Fr. Charles Buttigieg  
PhD (Biola Univ.), SThL (Gregorian Univ., Rome)  
[doncharles99@yahoo.it](mailto:doncharles99@yahoo.it)

*Sacred Scripture*

Ms. Marlene Cauchi  
DcounsPsy  
[marlene.cauchi@um.edu.mt](mailto:marlene.cauchi@um.edu.mt)

*Psychology*

Rev. Fr. Simon Mario Cachia  
BscEduc (PFP) (Salesian Univ., Rome)  
SThL (Salesian Univ., Rome)  
[cachiasimon@gmail.com](mailto:cachiasimon@gmail.com)

*Catechesis*

Rev. Fr. Christopher Caruana OP  
BA, STB (Ang);  
MA (Oxon);

*Philosophy, Fundamental Theology*

MPhil (Lond) <i>chriscaruan@yahoo.co.uk</i>		Rev. Fr. Samuel Grech SThD (Pont. Faculty of Theology, Marianum, Rome) <i>samuelgrech@hotmail.com</i>	<i>Mariology</i>
Rev. Mgr. John Mary Curmi MA (Melit.) <i>giovannicurmi@gmail.com</i>	<i>Pastoral Theology</i>	Rev. Fr. Michael Grima SThL (Gregorian Univ., Rome) <i>michael_grima@hotmail.com</i>	<i>Dogmatic Theology</i>
Rev. Fr. Joseph Curmi JCL (Lateran Univ., Rome) <i>archprieststgeorge@gmail.com</i>	<i>Canon Law</i>	Rev. Fr. Effie Masini LicSocSc (St Thomas Univ., Rome) <i>donbogo@gmail.com</i>	<i>Sociology</i>
Rev. Fr. Joseph Ellul OP SThL (Melit.); SThD (St. Thomas Univ., Rome) SA & IL (PISAI, Rome) <i>joseph.p.ellul@um.edu.mt</i>	<i>Islamic Studies</i>	Rev. Fr. Joseph Mercieca DipMusSac (Pont. Inst. of Sacred Music, Rome) <i>josephcmc21@gmail.com</i>	<i>Church Music</i>
Rev. Fr. Bernard Falzon MSSP MA in Pastoral Ministry (Ateneo de Manila); SThL Miss. (Gregorian Univ., Rome) <i>bernardfalzon@yahoo.com</i>	<i>Missionology</i>	Mr. Daniele Pariente <i>pariente@gmail.com</i>	<i>Biblical Hebrew</i>
Rev. Mgr. Joseph Farrugia SThD (Gregorian Univ., Rome) <i>josephmfarrugia@gmail.com</i>	<i>Fundamental Theology</i>	Rev. Fr. Alexander Refalo SThL (Pont. Theol. Faculty, Teresianum, Rome) <i>alrefalo@gmail.com</i>	<i>Spiritual Theology</i>
Rev. Fr. Joseph Farrugia SThL (St Alphonse Inst., Rome) PsyD (Gregorian Univ., Rome) <i>joseph7500@gmail.com</i>	<i>Psychology, Moral Theology</i>	Rev. Mgr. Carmel Refalo SThL (Patristic Inst., Augustinianum, Rome) SThD (Pont. Inst. Regina Apostolorum, Rome) <i>refalo.carmelo@gmail.com</i>	<i>Patrology</i>
Rev. Fr George Frendo SThL (St Alphonse Inst., Rome) <i>frgfrendo@yahoo.co.uk</i>	<i>Moral Theology</i>	Rev. Mgr. Noel Saliba LicSocSc (St Thomas Univ., Rome) <i>fr.noel.saliba@gmail.com</i>	<i>Sociology</i>
Rev. Fr. Carmel Gauci SThL (Ist. Theol. Ecumenico – Patristico, Bari) <i>dunkarmgauci@gmail.com</i>	<i>Ecumenical Studies</i>	Rev. Fr. Carl Scerri SThL (Institut Catholique de Paris) DPhil (Oxon) <i>scerri.carl@spcm.ie</i>	<i>Dogmatic Theology</i>
Rev. Fr. Marcello Ghirlando OFM SThL (Stud. Bibl. Franc., Jerusalem) SThD (Gregorian Univ., Rome) Dip. Journalism (Univ. of Malta) <i>ghirlandom@yahoo.hk</i>	<i>Pastoral Theology</i>	Rev. Mgr. Hector Scerri BA Phil & HumStud (IPHS, Faculty of Theology, Malta) SThL (Melit.); SThD (Gregorian Univ., Rome) <i>hector.scerri@um.edu.mt</i>	<i>Dogmatic Theology</i>

H.L. Mgr. Anthony Tuema  
JLMetPed (Salesian Univ., Rome),  
BScEd (Salesian Univ., Rome),  
MAScForm (Gregorian Univ., Rome),  
DipSS (Stud. Bibl. Franc., Jerusalem),  
Dip. Systemic Family Psychotherapy (Inst. Family Therapy, Malta)  
*bishopateuma@churchingozo.mt*

*Pastoral Theology*

Rev. Fr. David Torpiano  
SThD (Gregorian Univ. Rome)  
*daviddtorpiano@maltadiocese.org*

*Dogmatic Theology*

Mr. George Francis Vella  
B.A.(Phil & Econ.) (Melit.)  
B.A.(Hons.Classics) (Melit.)  
*georgefrancis.vella@gmail.com*

*Latin Language*

Mr. Karl Wright  
B.A., P.G.C.E., M. Sys. Psych.  
*karljwright79@gmail.com*

*Psychology*

Rev. Mgr. Edward Xuereb  
SThB (St Thomas Univ., Rome);  
JUD (Lateran Univ., Rome);  
SThD (Melit.)  
*edwxue@hotmail.com*

*Canon Law*

**Contacts**

Director:

email. *director.theologicalinst@churchingozo.mt*  
tel. 21556479

Rector:

*rector.seminary@churchingozo.mt*  
*seminarylibrary@churchingozo.mt*

Librarian:

**Library Opening hours:**

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>
Monday	15.30 – 18.30
Tuesday	15.30 – 18.30
Wednesday	15.30 – 18.30
Thursday	09.00 – 12.00
Friday	15.30 – 18.30
Saturday	09.00 – 12.00

**First Semester****P09 Philosophy and God**

5 ECTS

BAJADA Frankie, Rev. Fr

Nature, object and history of Natural Theology. Atheism and its various forms. The proof of God's existence through reason. Classical arguments for the proof of God's existence: ontological, cosmological, anthropological, theological, moral, religious experience. Science and the proof of God. Theological language and ineffability of God. Essence and attributes of God: fullness of Being, Simplicity, Goodness, Eternity, Immutability, Freedom. The problem of evil. God's action – God, man and the world.

<b>Assessment:</b>	Two-hour written test	80%
	Ten-minute oral	20%

**Bibliography:**

DONCEEL J. F., *Natural Theology*, New York 1962; MONDIN B. (ed.), *L'Ateismo. Natura e Cause*, Milano 1986; OVERMAN D.L., *A Case for the Existence of God*, Maryland 2010; SWINBURNE R., *Is there a God?*, Oxford-New York 1996; HICK J., *Who or What is God?*, London 2008.

**P03 Ancient Greek Philosophy**

3 ECTS

XERRI Jimmy, Rev. Mgr

An introduction to the known beginnings of philosophy, to the transition from myth to rational thought, its first developments and principal actors. The course will cover classical Greek thought from the 6th century B.C to the fourth century A.D.

<b>Assessment:</b>	Two-hour written test	60%
	Fifteen-minute oral	40%

**Bibliography:**

BLACKSON T. A., *Ancient Greek Philosophy*, Sussex 2011; BONAZZI M., (ed.), *Storia della Filosofia Antica. Dalle origini a Socrate*, Roma 2016; HADOT P., *What is Ancient Philosophy?*, Cambridge 2004; KIRKLAND S.D., *A Companion to Ancient Philosophy*, Illinois 2018; REEVE C.D.C. – MILLER P. L., *Introductory Readings in Ancient and Roman Philosophy*, Indianapolis 2015<sup>2</sup>.

**P17 Philosophy and Ecology: Man's Place in the Environment.  
Philosophy at the service of Mother Earth**

3 ECTS

XERRI Jimmy, Rev. Mgr.

We shall start with a historical overview of how man's relation to his surroundings developed and changed from the time of primeval man to the present. Man at first belonged to earth while today the relation is one of disharmony in that not only does the earth belong to man, but the latter has brought about a situation of environmental degradation which is a risk to his own survival. Facts and figures based on scientific data, social situations on the environment and ecosystems will be laid out. The contributions of civil society in favour of the environment will be treated summarily.

We shall treat of man's special place in the ecosystem. A philosophical reflection of how man relates with fellow humans and with the environment will shed light on man's special role as carer of plants, animals, fauna and fish and his fellow human beings. We shall discuss to what extent science and technology may help save the world we live in.

The ethics involved in some practical solutions suggested to defend the environment, but which may lead one away from a sane anthropology. Peter Singer's specism. Arne Naess' profound ecology.

The Church Magisterium's contributions: The Encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the Exhortation *Laudate Deum*.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 100%

**Bibliography:**

AMATO C., *Ecologia Integrale*, Roma 2022; BORDOLI R. et al., *Etica Ambientale: prospettive di ricerca*, Roma 2022; CARSON R., *Primavera Silenziosa*, Milano 2023; DEVALL B. – SESSIONS G., *Ecologia Profonda*, Roma 2022; NAESS A., *There is no Point of no Return*. Dublin 2021; SINGER P., *Nuova Liberazione Animale*, Milano 2024; XERRI J., *Man's Unique Place in the Environment and his Responsibility towards the Ecosystem*, Malta 2025.

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**TSS03 Introduction to Biblical Prophets**

5 ECTS

SULTANA Joseph, Rev. Mgr

This course introduces students to the phenomenon of prophecy in the HB/OT and its substantial body of prophetic texts. The 'writing prophets' are set within the context of their ancient Near Eastern environment and located within the historical moments of their own activity. Selected texts are examined more closely in historical, literary, and theological perspectives. Shared themes are considered, as well as the various developments which distinguish periods of prophetic activity, and the individual prophetic books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Minor Prophets. The course concludes with the rise of apocalyptic prophecy in the book of Daniel, and its trajectory into later Jewish and Christian texts.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 50%

5,000-word essay 40%

Ten-minute oral 10%

**Bibliography:**

CHISHOLM R. B., *Handbook on the Prophets*, Grand Rapids MI, 2002; BOVATI P., *Così parla il Signore. Studi sul Profetismo Biblico*, Bologna 2008; MARCONCINI B. et al., *Profeti e Apocalittici* (= Logos Corso di Studi Biblici 3), Torino 2007<sup>2</sup>; SPREAFICO A., *La*

*voce di Dio per capire i profeti* (= Studi Biblici 66), Bologna 2003; SICRE J. L., *Profetismo in Israele*, Roma 1995.

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**PT05 Introduction to the New Testament**

3 ECTS

MIZZI Anthony, Rev. Mgr

The course aims to acquaint the student with the New Testament literature, seen in its relationship to the Old Testament, thus highlighting their unity and as an ecclesial proclamation. Attention is given to the physical environment of Palestine and to the intertestamental historical biblical geography as related to the Gospels and Acts. A historical outlook of Judaism in the Hellenistic-Roman period provides a setting for the study of the Jewish religious life and belief, not less considering the pagan religious movements in the first century A.D. society. New Testament literary forms and chronology are also discussed.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 80%

Ten-minute oral 20%

**Bibliography:**

BROWN R. E., *An Introduction to the New Testament*, Bangalore 2004; JOHNSON L.T., *The Writings of the New Testament*, Minneapolis 2010<sup>3</sup>; LOHSE E., *The New Testament Environment*, London 2012; MARTIN D.B., *Introduction to New Testament History and Literature*, New Haven 2012; A.A. V.V., *La Bibbia Nel Suo Contesto*, (= Introduzione alla studio della Bibbia 1), Brescia 1994.

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**PT03 Biblical Moral Theology**

1.5 ECTS

SULTANA Joseph, Rev. Mgr

The main objective of this course is to emphasize the use of Holy Scripture in the study of Moral Theology. The course: the relation

between right reasoning and Holy Scripture; an overview of biblical anthropology to better understand Christian morals; the Christian meaning of the Decalogue; the intrinsic connection between ethics and religion as upheld by the prophets; the Sermon on the Mount; the categorical moral norms of the New Testament in the light of the fundamental Commandment of Love; moral issues predominant in the primitive Church.

**Assessment:** One-hour written test 100%

**Bibliography:**

HARING B., *Free and Faithful in Christ*, I, Slough 1978; SCHNACKENBURG R., *The Moral Teachings of the New Testament*, London 1982; WÉNIN A., *Alleanza*, in PENNA R. – PEREGO G. – RAVASI G., *Temi Teologici della Bibbia*, Cinisello Balsamo 2010, pp. 23-31; PONTIFICAL BIBLICAL COMMISSION, *The Bible and Morality. Biblical roots of Christian Conduct*, Città del Vaticano 2008.

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#### TF04 Theology of Ecumenism

2 ECTS

GAUCI Carmel, Rev. Mgr

The meaning of the terms 'Ecumenism' and 'Catholic' and their development in history. The need of an ecumenical theology in a pluralistic society. The Ecumenical Movement as a healing process among Churches: its beginning and the contribution of the Catholic Church in it especially with Vatican II and the *Unitatis Redintegratio*. Unity in the bible, unity in the Church and the hierarchy of truths. Differences and collaboration between the Churches in the light of the 'Directory for the application of the Principles and Norms on Ecumenism'.

**Assessment:** Fifteen-minute oral 100%

**Bibliography:**

MAFFEIS A., *Il dialogo ecumenico*, Brescia 2000; ROSSI T. F.,

*Manuale di Ecumenismo*, Brescia 2013; KASPER W., *Harvesting the Fruits. Basic Aspects of Christian Faith in Ecumenical Dialogue*, New York 2012; ROSSI T. F. (a cura di), *Conosciamo i Fratelli. Storia e attualità delle varie confessioni cristiane* (= Corso Breve di Ecumenismo 14), Roma 2016; MURRAY P. D. (ed.), *Receptive ecumenism and the call to Catholic learning. Exploring a way for contemporary ecumenism*, Oxford 2008.

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#### TSP01 Spiritual Theology

3 ECTS

RAFALO Alexander, Rev. Fr

The main objective is to help students integrate the theoretical and experimental side of Christian life by providing them with the essential data and principles of spiritual theology. The course discusses Spiritual Theology in terms of its method, sources and relationship with other disciplines. Special emphasis will be given to everyday experience. The course covers: 1) the biblical roots of spirituality; 2) a short history of spirituality and 3) the journey toward spiritual maturity.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 100%

**Bibliography:**

BERNARD C-A., *Teologia Spirituale*, Roma 1989; BOUYER L., *Introduction to Spirituality*, Minnesota 1961; TANQUEREY A. *Compendio di Teologia Ascetica e Mistica*, Roma 2018.

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#### TCH03 Church History I – Antiqua (30-700)

3 ECTS

ATTARD Geoffrey George, Rev. Fr

The main objective of the study of Church History is: to become familiar with the way the small nucleus consisting of the apostles and disciples of the Jesus of Nazareth gradually became a world-

wide phenomenon and who the Christian Church, subsisting in the Catholic Church in unity with the see of Peter, while keeping faithful to the teaching of the Apostolic Church, became a sign for the times carrying within it the means for salvation.

The first period of Church History – otherwise known as Antiqua – presents to us the formation of the institution which eventually became to be known as the Catholic Church, with Rome as the Church which presides in charity as it confirms the teachings of the first four ecumenical councils these meeting at Nicaea (325 AD), Constantinople (381 AD), Ephesus (431 AD) and Chalcedon (451 AD) thus forming what is known as the Nicaean-Constantinopolitan Creed.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 100%

**Bibliography:**

CHADWICK O., *A History of Christianity*, London 1995, HEATHER P., *Christendom. The Triumph of a Religion*, London 2022, LORTZ J., *Storia della Chiesa in Prospettiva di Storia delle Idee*, I-II, Milano 1987, MACCULLOCK D., *A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*, London 2009, WEIDENKOPF S., *Timeless. A History of the Catholic Church*, Indiana 2018.

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**PL04 Latin Language II**

6 ECTS

VELLA George Francis, Mr

The chief aim of this course is to give the student the ability to read and write both Classical and Church Latin, thus enabling him to handle classical works and ecclesiastical writings, including typical liturgical texts, official Church documents and theological literature. During the second year, the course is set to focus more on literature and philological analysis.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 100%

**Bibliography:**

COLLINS J. F., *A Primer of Ecclesiastical Latin*, Washington, D.C., 1988; KENNEDY B. H., *The Revised Latin Primer*, London 1979; WHEELOCK F. M. – LAFLEUR R. A., *Wheelock's Latin*, New York 2011<sup>7</sup>.

## Second Semester

### P10 Philosophy of the Physical World

3 ECTS

BAJADA Frankie, Rev. Fr

Epistemological status of the world – Man and the world. The structure of corporeal beings – analysis of change. Categories of being. Physical and metaphysical essence of matter. The nature of the world – mathematics, kinetics, dynamics. Some particular problems: the being of the world, natural evolution of the universe, finitude and contingency of the universe, creation. The value of the world – The environmental question – saving the world.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 80%  
Ten-minute oral 20%

#### Bibliography:

ARTIGAS M. – SANGUINETTI J., *Filosofia della Natura*, Firenze 1989; HETHERINGTON N. S. (ed.), *Cosmology. Historical, Literary, Philosophical, Religious, and Scientific Perspectives*, New York – London 1993; McINERNY D. Q., *The Philosophy of Nature*, Nebraska 2001; THOMAS AQUINAS, *Summa Contra Gentiles* II c.45; *Summa Theologiae I*, qq.44-48; *De Potentia* q.3 a.5.

### P04 Hellenistic-Roman Philosophy

3 ECTS

XERRI Jimmy, Rev. Mgr

The chief objective of the course is to show how the social change from City-State to Empire affected philosophy, causing it to sideline metaphysical and physical speculation in favour of the ethical and practical. The course covers the period that starts from the 4th century B.C. to the 7th A.D., having as its major contents: Stoicism,

Epicureanism, Cynicism, Eclecticism, Scepticism, Jewish-Hellenic Philosophy and Neoplatonism.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 100%

#### Bibliography:

ARMSTRONG A. H. (ed.), *The Cambridge History of Later Greek and Early Medieval Philosophy*, Cambridge 1970; REEVE C.D.C. – MILLER P.L., *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*, Indianapolis 2015; SAUNDERS J. L., *Greek and Roman Philosophy after Aristotle*, New York 1994; ZAMBON M., *Nessun Dio è mai sceso quaggiù. La polemica anticristiana dei filosofi antichi*, Roma 2019; PLEVRIS C., *Greek Philosophers*, Athens 1999.

### P18 Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics – Seminar

4 ECTS

GAUCI Gabriel, Rev. Fr

This seminar aims to introduce students to one of the enduring classics of philosophy. The work not only condenses Aristotelian thought but also stands as one of the most widely read and commented texts throughout the history of philosophy. Students will be encouraged to grasp the central ideas of Aristotelian moral philosophy through reading and interpretation of selected passages, together with the ability to situate them within their historical and philosophical contexts, and to apply Aristotle's insights to contemporary moral issues.

During the seminar, each student will present an assigned text in class, followed by discussion with other students. This presentation will contribute to the final grade, alongside an oral examination at the end of the semester.

**Assessment:** Presentation in Class 40%  
Thirty-minute oral 60%

#### Bibliography:

*The Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Tredennick H. – Thompson J.A.K., Penguin Classics, 2004; PAKALUK, M., *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics: An Introduction*, Cambridge University Press 2005; POLANSKY, R., ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, 2014.

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#### TSS04 The Poetic and Didactic books

5 ECTS

SULTANA Joseph, Rev. Mgr

The course is aimed to understand the key distinctives of OT poetic and wisdom literature and its place in the development of the Hebrew canon. Special attention is given to the structure and interpretation of Hebrew poetry and an introduction to each of the books - Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, Ecclesiasticus and Wisdom of Solomon - their nature, style, theological themes and internal structure. An introduction to the psalms as the main prayerbook of Israel: introduction to their terminology, enumeration, authorship, date of compilation and growth of the Psalter, its fundamental theological themes and exegesis of some psalms.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 80%  
Ten-minute oral 20%

#### Bibliography:

MURPHY R. E., *The Tree of Life. An Exploration of Biblical Wisdom Literature*, Grand Rapids MI 1996; BROWN W. P., *Character in Crisis. A Fresh Approach to the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament*, Grand Rapids MI 1996; ALONSO SCHÖKEL L. – CARNITI C., *Salmos, I-II*, Estella 1992, 1993; GILBERT M., *Les cinq livres des sages*, Paris 2003; MAZZINGHI L., *Il Pentateuco sapientiale*, Bologna 2012.

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#### PT08 Religions and Salvation

3 ECTS

Farrugia Joseph, Rev. Mgr

Learning Objectives: To address from the theological perspective the context wherein salvation emerges as a basic human aspiration; To explore the internal cohesion of all religions at the level of their salvific role; To identify the features which specify the uniqueness of Christ as the sole mediator of salvation as well as the role of the Church and its mission of salvation.

Description: A brief historical excursus of the notion of salvation in Christian theological reflection and in the interaction of the religions of the world. The Catholic / Protestant theological evaluations of non-Christian religions as “means” of salvation. The specificity of Christian salvation as rooted in the uniqueness and normativity of Christ, the sole mediator between God and humankind. The role of the Catholic Church in the mediation of universal salvation.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 100%

#### Bibliography:

Church Documents including the Declaration *Dominus Iesus* (2000).

DE COSTA G., *Christianity and World Religions. An Introduction to the Theology of Religion*, Oxford 2009. DUPUIS J., *Towards a Christian Theology of Religious Pluralism*, New York 2001; FARRUGIA J., «Sfida del pluralismo religioso contemporaneo alla teologia Cristiana», in M. Crociata (ed.), *Teologia delle religioni. Bilancio e prospettive*, Milano 2001; McGRATH A.E., «Soteriology», McGrath (ed.), in *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Modern Christian Thought*, Oxford 1993, 616-626; RACE A., *Christians and Religious Pluralism. Patterns in the Christian Theology of Religions*, London 1993; SULLIVAN F. A., *Salvation Outside the Church? Tracing the History of the Catholic Response*, New York 1992.

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## PT07 The Virtue of Religion

4 ECTS

FARRUGIA Richard Nazzareno, Rev. Fr

This course offers a systematic moral-theological study of the virtue of religion, a key virtue annexed to justice that governs human beings' relationship to God. It focuses on the virtue's nature, acts (prayer, sacrifice, adoration), associated vices (superstition, magic), and ecclesial cult (liturgy and Sunday observance). The course also explores how the virtue of religion integrates with the theological virtues, and how it is expressed in the first three commandments of the Decalogue.

<b>Assessment:</b>	Two-hour written test	50%
	5,000-word essay	40%
	Ten-minute oral	10%

### Bibliography:

CESSARIO R., *The Virtues, or the Examined Life*, London – New York 2002, GALVÁN J. M. , *Scelti in Cristo per essere santi. Morale teologale*, vol. 2, Roma 2018, PESCHKE K. H., *Christian Ethics. Moral theology in the light of Vatican II*, vol. 2/*Special Moral Theology*, Eugene OR, 2012.

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## TSL01 Sacred Liturgy I

3 ECTS

BORG Ignatius, Rev. Fr

The main objective of the study of Sacred Liturgy is to gain a better and clearer comprehension of the nature of liturgy in all its fullness and with all its implications. The following themes will be treated: hermeneutics, etymology and nature of the word "liturgy" in Greek, Roman, and Biblical Background; the development of the liturgy through the ages up to Vatican II; the theology of the liturgy; the spirituality of the liturgy; the pastoral aspect of the liturgy; the catechetical aspect.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 100%

### Bibliography:

BOSELLI G., *Il Senso Spirituale della Liturgia*, Magnano 2011; DIX D. G., *The Shape of Liturgy*, London 1986; MARTIMORT A. G., *La Chiesa in Preghiera*, I, Brescia 1984; SENN F. C., *Introduction to Christian Liturgy*, Minneapolis 2012; WITHEY D. A., *Catholic Worship. An Introduction to Liturgy*, Eugene OR 2017.

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## TCL01 General Norms

1.5 ECTS

SULTANA Trevor, Rev. Fr

This course has a twofold objective: to provide an introduction to the legal science and to Canon Law in particular, and to define certain key juridical concepts and important canonical legal institutes that are indispensable for a pastoral functionary in order to understand, interpret and apply Church law. Once the sources of law are identified and the powers of those who are entitled to act within the canonical legal system are determined (legislative, executive and judicial), other juridical principles are explained and elucidated by cross-references from the same code of Canon Law. Particular attention is given to the ten directive principles that the Bishops' Synod, held in 1967, proposed for the revision of the Code.

**Assessment:** Fifteen-minute oral 10%

### Bibliography:

VALDRINI P., *Comunità, Persone, Governo. Lezioni sui libri I e II del CIC 1983* (= *Utrumque Ius* 32), Città del Vaticano 2013; GARCÍA MARTÍN J., *Le norme generali del Codex Iuris Canonici*, Roma 2015<sup>6</sup>.

**First Semester****TSS09 The Pauline Letters I**

5 ECTS

MIZZI Anthony, Rev. Mgr

The course first studies Paul's life and present his great personality during his ministry. Consideration is given to situate his letters and his thought in the story of his ministry as an apostle and providing portraits of his prophetic and pastoral image. A glance is given at the epistolary genre, proceeding to treat Paul's first letters to the Thessalonians and the Corinthians. The theological message of each letter is expounded through an exegetical analysis of some selected texts to explore certain Pauline doctrinal themes: Christocentric soteriology, ecclesiology and eschatology.

<b>Assessment:</b>	Two-hour written test	50%
	5,000-word essay	40%
	Ten-minute oral	10%

**Bibliography:**

O'CONNOR J. M., *Paul. His Story*, New York 2004; SANDERS E. P. *Paul: The Apostle's Life, Letters and Thought*, Minneapolis MN 2015; BARBAGLIO G., *La Teologia di Paolo. Abbozzi in forma epistolare*, Bologna 1999; BROWN R. E. – FITZMYER J. A. – MURPHY R. E. (eds.), *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, chaps. 45, 46, 49, 50, 53, 82, London 1991; BARTOLEMÉ J. J., *Paolo di Tarso. Un'introduzione alla vita e all'opera dell'Apostolo di Cristo*, Roma 2009.

**TD05 Ecclesiology**

5 ECTS

GRECH Daniel, Rev. Fr

The course will offer a primary approach to the reality and mystery of the Church through a historical and a systematic reflection. The first part of the course will focus on the comprehension of the Church: the biblical foundation; historical and theological models throughout the ages; ecclesiological renewal before and after Vatican II; contemporary developments and magisterial pronouncements.

The second part attempts a systematic study of the theological identity of the Church especially through the notions 'People of God', 'Body of Christ', and 'Temple of the Holy Spirit' as taught in Scripture and elaborated in Church teaching. It will present the major themes of Vatican II's ecclesiology, situating them in the Council's historical context and giving more emphasis to communion ecclesiology which, according to the Extraordinary Synod of 1985, is crucial to a proper understanding of Vatican II's teaching on the Church. The course will also consider questions as the interrelationship between the Church and the Kingdom of God, between the Church and other religions, ecumenism, evangelization and mission, renewal and reform, and the ongoing theme of synodality.

<b>Assessment:</b>	Two-hour written test	50%
	5,000-word essay	40%
	Ten-minute oral	10%

**Bibliography:**

FORTE B., *La Chiesa della Trinità. Saggio sul mistero della Chiesa comunione e missione, San Paolo*, Cinisello B. 1995; KERESZTY R.A., *The Church of God in Jesus Christ: a Catholic ecclesiology*, Washington D.C. 2019; LA SOUJEOLE B.D. de, *Introduction to the Mystery of the Church*, Washington D.C. 2014; MANSINI G., *Ecclesiology*, Washington D.C. 2021; PIE-NINOT S., *Ecclesiology. La sacramentalità della comunità cristiana*, Brescia 2008.

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### TD03 The Mystery of Christ II: Redemption

5 ECTS

XERRI Daniel, Rev. Mgr

The course aims to give a theological reflection on the mystery of redemption accomplished by Christ in his Paschal mystery: the human quest for salvation; God the Redeemer as revealed in Sacred Scripture; in Christ, God realizes and transcends the human need of salvation; development of biblical and ecclesial reflection on the salvific plan of God in Christ; Jesus as “mediator” of salvation; the mysteries of the life of Jesus as source of salvation; the Paschal mystery - the passion, death and exultation of Christ; Ascension and Pentecost; objectivity of the salvation obtained by Christ and the participation of man in the mystery of salvation; unicity and universality of the salvific mystery of Jesus Christ.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 80%  
Ten-minute oral 20%

#### Bibliography:

BENEDICT XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth. Holy Week: From the entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, II, San Francisco CA 2011; CAVALCOLI G., *Il mistero della Redenzione*, Bologna 2004; DUCAY A., *Riportare il mondo al Padre. Corso di Soteriologia Cristiana*, Roma 2016; MOLTMANN J., *The Crucified God*, Minneapolis MN 2015; O'COLLINS G., *Gesù nostro Redentore. La via cristiana alla salvezza*, Rome 2009.

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### TD11 Of Complex Ministries and Times: the Sacrament of Holy Orders Today

1.5 ECTS

Grima Michael, Rev. Fr

This course has the objective to present various hermeneutical keys which elucidate the past, present and, possibly, the future of

the sacrament of Holy Orders. Starting off from contemporary issues within the Catholic Church, particularly the problem of clerical abuse and the synodal process, the course seeks to make a historical reading of this sacrament and explain the various changes that it has gone through. Indeed, this is a complex sacrament, for, while anchored in Tradition, it has gone through several important transformations. In seeking to delve deeper into the substance of this sacrament, the course will put forward various interpretations of Catholic ministry and argue that the Christological interpretation needs to be complemented by an ecclesiological and pneumatological reading. It is only in embracing the inherent complexity of this sacrament that one can start to understand its richness and anticipate its future.

**Assessment:** One-hour written test 100%

#### Bibliography:

CASTELLUCCIE, *Il Ministero Ordinato*, Brescia 2002; DIANICH S., *Teologia del Ministero Ordinato: Una Interpretazione Ecclesiologica*, Roma 1984; GIAMBRONE A., *The Bible and the Priesthood. Priestly participation in the one sacrifice for sins*, Michigan 2022; VANHOYE A., *Prêtres Anciens, Prêtre Nouveau Selon le Nouveau Testament*, Paris 1980; VITALI D., *Communitatis ministerium. Rilettura del ministero ordinato a partire dal Concilio Vaticano II*, Roma 2018.

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### TM04 The Sacrament of Reconciliation

3 ECTS

FARRUGIA Richard-Nazzareno, Rev. Fr

This course will consider the Sacrament of Reconciliation from the theological and ethical aspects. The theme of «reconciliation» is at the centre of the Christian message and of the Church's identity and evangelizing mission. Mainly, the course will offer a theological reflection on sin and on the sacrament of Reconciliation. Reference will also be made to the reconciling mission of the Church today.

<b>Assessment:</b>	Two-hour written test	80%
	Ten-minute oral	20%

#### **Bibliography:**

COFFEY D. M., *The sacrament of Reconciliation*, Collegeville MN 2001; GIRARD R., *The one by whom scandal comes*, Michigan 2014; HÄRING B., *Shalom. Peace – The Sacrament of Reconciliation*, New York 1968; KASPER W., *Mercy. The Essence of the Gospel and the Key to the Christian Life*, Mahwah NJ 2013; SCHOOONENBERG P., *Man and Sin. A Theological View*, London 1966.

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#### **TSP05 Catechetics**

3 ECTS

CACHIA Simon, Rev. Fr

The study comprises the analysis of the revised *Directory for Catechesis* as well as the Church's Magisterium regarding catechesis. Catechetical methodology with regards to certain categories such as children and preadolescents, adolescents, youth, adults and persons with special needs will also be analyzed. The role of the catechist within the ecclesial community is also to be tackled.

<b>Assessment:</b>	2000 words essay	30%
	Twenty-minute oral	70%

#### **Bibliography:**

ALBERICH E. – BINZ A., *Adulti e catechesi. Elementi di metodologia catechetica dell'età adulta*, Leumann (TO) 2004; AUGÉ M., *L'iniziazione cristiana. Battesimo e confermazione*, Roma 2010; PONTIFICO CONSIGLIO PER LA PROMOZIONE DELLA NUOVA EVANGELIZZAZIONE, *Direttorio per la Catechesi*, Città del Vaticano 2020; SARTOR P., *Catechisti si diventa*, Bologna 2014; UFFICIO CATECHISTICO NAZIONALE, *Incontriamo Gesù. Annuncio e catechesi in Italia alla luce degli orientamenti nazionali*, Bologna 2014.

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#### **PP05 Human and Spiritual Maturity**

1.5 ECTS

FARRUGIA Joseph, Rev. Fr

*Gratia supponit naturam.* The course will inspire participants to assimilate and integrate the gospel values in their personality structure. This implies a transition from an idealistic state of values proclamation to an existential state of living the proclaimed values. The course will present the elements that constitute the human psyche, particularly, the levels of psychic life, the motivational system, the defensive behaviour, and the structure of the self. Subsequently we will present the processes that effect positively and/or negatively human and spiritual growth.

<b>Assessment:</b>	20-min. Presentation	40%
	Fifteen-minute oral	60%

#### **Bibliography:**

CENCINI A. – MANENTI A., *Psychology and Formation. Structures and Dynamics*, Bombay 1992; CENCINI A., *L'ora di Dio. La crisi nella vita credente*, Bologna 2010; RAVAGLIOLI A., *Psicologia. Studio interdisciplinare della personalità*, Bologna 2006;

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#### **TCH04 Church History II – Mediaevalis (700-1300)**

3 ECTS

BEZZINA Joseph, Rev. Mgr.

The second period of Church History – known for convenience as *mediævalis* – describes how the Church became the entelechy of the Christian nations of the West, greatly consolidated by Charlemagne, leading to the foundation of a new Holy Empire, the beginning of mendicant Orders and of Universities, and their important role in the foundation of a new social order in Europe.

<b>Assessment:</b>	Two-hour written test	100%
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#### **Bibliography:**

BOKKENKOTTER T., *A concise history of the Catholic Church*, revised and expanded edition, New York 2005<sup>3</sup>; COMBY J. *How to read Church History*, I, *From the beginning to the fifteenth century*, London 1996; JEDIN H. – REPGEN K. – DOLAN J. (eds.), *History of the Church*, III, *The Church in the Age of Feudalism*, London 1968; IV, *From the High Middle Ages to the Eve of the Reformation*, London 1969; ISNARD W.-F., *Storia della Chiesa*, II, *Epoca Medioevale*, Brescia 2010<sup>3</sup>; SHELLEY B. L., *Church history in plain language*, Dallas TX 1995.

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### TCL03 The Sacrament of Reconciliation and other Sacraments

3 ECTS

SULTANA Trevor, Rev. Fr

The Sacraments as codified in the CIC 1983 in comparison with the CIC 1917, with specific reference to the Vatican II Ecclesiology. The competence of the various authorities within the Church in ordering and guiding its liturgical and sacramental life. The sacraments of baptism, confirmation, holy orders, the sacrament of anointing. The sacrament of reconciliation: duties and rights of the reconciled Christian, the minister of the sacrament of reconciliation, abuses by the minister, the sacramental seal, duties of the minister, norms for a collective confession and absolution.

**Assessment:** Two-hour written test 100%

#### **Bibliography:**

RINCÓN-PÉREZ T., *La liturgia e i sacramenti nel diritto della Chiesa*, Roma 2018<sup>2</sup>; SÀNCHEZ-GIL A. S., (ed.), *Sacramenti e Diritto. I Sacramenti come diritti e come sorgenti di diritto*, Roma 2022.

**September 2025**

29 Mon First day of lectures. *Opening of the academic year. First staff meeting. Concelebrated mass of the Holy Spirit with lectures and seminarians.*

**October 2025**

20 Mon Topics for semester essays given during this week

**November 2025**

1 Sat Solemnity of all the Saints  
 4 Tue 158<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Seminary opening  
 17 Mon Changes of mid-semester courses take place during this week  
 20 Thu Exams of mid-semester courses  
 26 Wed Casus. 4pm

**December 2025**

8 Mon **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.** No classes  
 20 Sat Christmas holidays begin  
 25 Thu **Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**January 2026**

1 Thu **Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God**  
 5 Mon Lectures resume for 2<sup>nd</sup> term.  
 12 Mon Presentation of essays to the Director  
 16 Fri Last day of lectures of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester  
 21 Wed Exam session begins

**February 2026**

4 Wed Exam session finishes  
 9 Mon Second semester lectures begin. *Exam results to be handed to the Director*  
 10 Tue **Solemnity of St Paul's Shipwreck in Malta.** No classes  
 18 Wed Ash Wednesday. Regular classes

**March 2026**

19 Thu **Solemnity of St Joseph.** No classes  
 28 Sat Easter holidays begin  
 29 Sun **Palm Sunday**

**April 2026**

5 Sun **Easter Sunday**  
 13 Mon Lectures resume for 3rd term. Change of mid-semester courses  
 16 Thu Exams of mid-semester courses  
 22 Wed Casus. 4pm

**May 2026**

1 Fri Public Holiday. No classes  
 4 Mon Comprehensive exam (written)  
 7 Thu Comprehensive exam (oral)  
 25 May Presentation of semester essays to the Director  
 29 Fri Last day of lectures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

**June 2026**

5 Fri Exam session begins  
 17 Wed Exam session finishes  
 26 Fri Exam results to be handed to the Director

# TIME TABLES

## 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle – 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2025–2026

Periods	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Time	8.15 - 9.00	9.00-9.45	9.45-10.30	11.00-11.45	11.45-12.30
<b>Monday</b>	Systematic Philosophy Physical World <i>F. Bajada</i>	Systematic Philosophy Physical World <i>F. Bajada</i>	Sacred Scripture Introduction to Biblical Prophets <i>J. Sultana</i>	Moral Theology Biblical Moral Theology <i>J. Sultana</i>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Church History I – <i>Antiqua</i> <i>G. Attard</i>	Spiritual Theology <i>A. Refalo</i>	Systematic Philosophy Philosophy and Ecology <i>J. Xerri</i>	Systematic Philosophy Philosophy and Ecology <i>J. Xerri</i>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	History of Philosophy Ancient Greek <i>J. Xerri</i>	Fundamental Theology Theology of Ecumenism* <i>C. Gauci</i>	Sacred Scripture Introduction to the New Testament <i>A. Mizzi</i>	Sacred Scripture Introduction to Biblical Prophets <i>J. Sultana</i>	Sacred Scripture Introduction to Biblical Prophets <i>J. Sultana</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>STUDY DAY</b>				
<b>Friday</b>	History of Philosophy Ancient Greek <i>J. Xerri</i>	Spiritual Theology <i>A. Refalo</i>	Sacred Scripture Introduction to the New Testament <i>A. Mizzi</i>	Sacred Scripture Introduction to Biblical Prophets <i>J. Sultana</i>	Sacred Scripture Introduction to Biblical Prophets <i>J. Sultana</i>

**Latin Language II:** Monday 17.00-17.45; 17.45-18.30

\* The course will be conducted over a seven-week period.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester 2025–2026

Periods	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Time	8.15 - 9.00	9.00-9.45	9.45-10.30	11.00-11.45	11.45-12.30
<b>Monday</b>	Moral Theology The Virtue of Religion <i>R.-N. Farrugia</i>	Moral Theology The Virtue of Religion <i>R.-N. Farrugia</i>	System. Philosophy Philosophy of God <i>F. Bajada</i>	System. Philosophy Philosophy of God <i>F. Bajada</i>	Sacred Scripture The Poetic and Didactic <i>J. Sultana</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Sacred Liturgy – I <i>I. Borg</i>	System. Philosophy Philosophy of God <i>F. Bajada</i>	Fundamental Theology Religions and Salvation <i>J. Farrugia</i>	Fundamental Theology Religions and Salvation <i>J. Farrugia</i>	History of Philosophy Hellenistic - Roman <i>J. Xerri</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	History of Philosophy Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics – Seminar <i>G. Gauci</i>	History of Philosophy Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics – Seminar <i>G. Gauci</i>	Fundamental Theology Religions and Salvation <i>J. Farrugia</i>	Canon Law General Norms* <i>T. Sultana</i>	Canon Law General Norms* <i>T. Sultana</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>STUDY DAY</b>				
<b>Friday</b>	History of Philosophy Hellenistic – Roman <i>J. Xerri</i>	Sacred Liturgy – I <i>I. Borg</i>	The Poetic and Didactic <i>J. Sultana</i>	Sacred Scripture The Poetic and Didactic <i>J. Sultana</i>	Sacred Scripture The Poetic and Didactic <i>J. Sultana</i>

**Latin Language II:** Monday 17.00-17.45; 17.45-18.30

\* The course will be conducted over a seven-week period.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle – 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2025–2026

Periods	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Time	8.15 - 9.00	9.00-9.45	9.45-10.30	11.00-11.45	11.45-12.30
Monday	Church History II – Mediaevalis <i>J. Bezzina</i>	Church History II – Mediaevalis <i>J. Bezzina</i>	Canon Law Penance & other Sacraments <i>J. Bezzina</i> <i>T. Sultana</i>	Dogmatic Theology Mystery of Christ - II (Redemption) <i>D. Xerri</i>	Dogmatic Theology Mystery of Christ - II (Redemption) <i>D. Xerri</i>
	Pastoral Theology Human and Spiritual Maturity <i>J. Farrugia</i>	Pastoral Theology Human and Spiritual Maturity <i>J. Farrugia</i>	Pastoral Theology Catechetics <i>S. Cachia</i>	Pastoral Theology Catechetics <i>S. Cachia</i>	Canon Law Penance & other Sacraments <i>T. Sultana</i>
Tuesday	Dogmatic Theology Sacrament of Holy Orders <i>M. Grima</i>	Dogmatic Theology Sacrament of Holy Orders <i>M. Grima</i>	Moral Theology Sacrament of Penance <i>R.-N. Farrugia</i>	Moral Theology Sacrament of Penance <i>R.-N. Farrugia</i>	Dogmatic Theology Mystery of Christ - II (Redemption) <i>D. Xerri</i>
	Dogmatic Theology Theology of the Church <i>D. Grech</i>	Dogmatic Theology Theology of the Church <i>D. Grech</i>	STUDY DAY	Sacred Scripture Pauline Letters - I <i>A. Mizzi</i>	Sacred Scripture Pauline Letters - I <i>A. Mizzi</i>
Wednesday				Sacred Scripture Pauline Letters - I <i>A. Mizzi</i>	Sacred Scripture Pauline Letters - I <i>A. Mizzi</i>
Thursday					
Friday	Dogmatic Theology Theology of the Church <i>D. Grech</i>	Dogmatic Theology Theology of the Church <i>D. Grech</i>			

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