

Course Descriptions

1. The Formation Staff in Religious Congregations (15h) (3 ECTS)

Goals: to provide orientation to staff of houses of religious formation in each of the different areas of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual and apostolic.

Contents of the Course: Human dimension: physical care and health; teaching human virtues; formation of affectivity; skills for relationship and life in common; connection between freedom and responsibility. Spiritual dimension [it is assumed that the participants will take the course on spiritual direction]: spiritual life as union with God and configuration with Christ; vows in religious life: chastity, poverty, obedience and other particular vows; living celibacy; liturgical life: Eucharist and liturgy of the hours; mental prayer and lectio divina; common life and fraternity; devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Intellectual dimension: connection between piety and doctrine; philosophical and theological studies; cultural formation. Apostolic dimension: the specific mission of the congregation; catechesis. Other dimensions: collegiality in government; relationship with other collaborators in formation; silence of office.

Profs. Francisco Insa, Laurent Touze & Paul O'Callaghan

2. Fundraising as Faithraising for Religious Institutions (5h) (1 ECTS)

Fundraising is a technique that is developing more and more in Europe and in the United States of America as an institutional culture among enterprises and NGO's. This specific technique has also been used to grow the temporal means of the Catholic Church. When applying this instrument to the ecclesial institutions, it becomes a vehicle to transmit the Faith and to evangelize potential donors. This course aims to explain the basic elements of fundraising and the special character it takes when developing a Religious Congregation or any kind of institution promoted within the Church. We will focus into serving families and the longterm sustainability of the temporal goods needed for the spiritual mission of the Church.

Prof. Cristian Mendoza

3. Liturgy: Source and Summit of the Christian Life (15h) (3 ECTS)

Why does Liturgy matter? The Vatican Council II calls it "the source and summit" of the Christian life (cfr. SC 10). Nevertheless, western culture tends to suspect about ritual actions. We also know from Christian experience that it is not easy to live according to the form of the liturgy. Moving from these cultural and pastoral difficulties, the course explores the ritual dimension of Christian Salvation both in the Old and New Testament. According to the Liturgical Movement and the Conciliar Renewal, the Liturgy will be considered as the ritual update of the Paschal Mystery. The presence of the Paschal Mystery calls for artistic responses expressing the depth and beauty of the Church's encounter with the Trinity.

Prof. Juan Rego

4. Spiritual Accompaniment (15h) (3 ECTS)

Goals: To offer skills to those in charge of spiritual accompaniment or direction (whether it is imparted to religious of their own order or to people of other ecclesial conditions) and to help them realize better their important role in the Church.

Contents of the Course: Nature and goals of spiritual accompaniment. Characteristics of a good spiritual director. Place and frequency. Topics to be addressed in conversations. Distinction between the external forum and the forum of conscience. Teaching how to pray. Encouraging ascetic struggle: growing in virtues and mortification. Internalizing one's own charism. Characteristics peculiar to different ages. Spiritual accompaniment in other ecclesial conditions: young people, spouses, priests. Spiritual direction and vocational discernment. Spiritual accompaniment of people with physical and mental illnesses.

Profs. Francisco Insa, Laurent Touze & Paul O'Callaghan

5. Canonical Notions Regarding the Consecrated Life (15h) (3 ECTS)

Introduction: Theological Identity of Religious Life.

The juridical dimension of the consecrated life entails the sensibility that seeks justice in the various different relationships of which it is composed: governance, formation, and mission are the three areas in which these types of relationships are manifested. The study of certain issues present in these areas, in light of the norms of the Code of Canon Law and of the most recent documents of the Holy See, represents the fulcrum of this Refresher Course.

1. Some General Notions: protection of the charism; proper law; means of control and vigilance; juridical sensibility; consultation; autonomy and hierarchical communion (relationship with Bishops, Episcopal Conferences, Roman Curia ...).
2. Governance: Superiors and their Council (can. 617-630); Religious houses (can. 608-616); Chapters (can. 631-633); Instruction "The Service of Authority and Obedience" (11 May 2008).
3. Formation: Novitiate (can. 641-653); Permanent Formation (can. 659-661); Transfer, departure, dismissal of members... (can. 684-704).
4. Mission: Apostolate of the Institute (can. 673-683); Closure, expansion, change... of works; Permanent reference to the charism; Cloister (cost. ap. *Vultum Dei quaerere* and instr. *Cor Orans*).

Profs. Fernando Puig, P. Gefaell & Ph. Goyret

6. Sexuality, Gender and Education (15h) (3 ECTS)

Sexuality and Marriage in Sacred Scripture. The Moral Virtue of Chastity.

The problem of Gender. In recent years there has been a lot of talk and writing about "gender" both in academia and in the mass media. It is not always clear what the Christian attitude should be towards these issues. In this course we will examine some relevant topics that can help us to deal with this complex issue from a Christian perspective, taking into consideration some proposals made in the Catholic sphere. Some of the most relevant issues will be addressed from biomedical, psychological, philosophical and religious perspectives.

Some bioethical issues related to procreation and its manipulation in our societies will also be studied. For centuries, the Morality of Human Life has dealt with certain topics that nowadays are being openly questioned and challenged in the field of contemporary Bioethics.

Profs. Pablo Requena & Pau Agulles