

WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF LIFE STUDIUM

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC CENTRE FOR THEOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL STUDY

Theological Institute accredited by the Teresianum Pontifical Faculty (Rome)

Seminary for candidates studying for ordained ministries

Introduction

Our Lady of Life Studium is an International Theological Institute welcoming students, priests, seminarians, religious and lay people.

It is accredited by the *Teresianum* Pontifical Faculty (Rome) and recognised by *l'Académie d'Aix-Marseille* as a private Higher Education Establishment. The Studium offers a university education in theology coupled with a formation rooted in the spiritual life. The Studium also offers training for the ordained ministries. It welcomes candidates for the priesthood, sent by their bishop or the superior of their congregation and provides training for the ministerial priesthood. In this context, it is affiliated to the national Council of Seminaries of France.

The Studium prepares candidates for the Baccalaureat canonique (STB, equivalent to a Bachelors degree in theology) and for the Licence canonique (STL, equivalent to a Masters degree in theology).

It can also offer certificates in theology and applied pastoral studies.

One of its aims is to offer training for students to become formators themselves.

The Studium is an apostolate of the Our Lady of Life Lay Institute of consecrated life (Notre Dame de Vie).

History

The Studium is affiliated to the Catholic Lay Institute of Our Lady of Life (Notre Dame de Vie)

Our Lady of Life is a spiritual family founded in 1932 by a Carmelite religious, Father Marie Eugene of the Child Jesus, who was born in 1894 and died on 27 March 1967; and a lay woman, Marie Pila. The Institute is named after the shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Life in Venasque (Provence, France), where the Virgin Mary has been honoured since the 6th century.

The spirituality of Our Lady of Life is Carmelite, after Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross and Therese of Lisieux. Its ideal is to witness to the world the primacy of God, through prayer and various professional, social and apostolic commitments in everyday life.

Our Lady of Life Institute consists of some 600 consecrated and lay men and women, and priests. It is present on four continents and in about twenty countries.

There are also married couples and associated members who live a life in spiritual association with it. Since 1973, Our Lady of Life has been recognised by the Vatican as a Lay Institute of Pontifical Right, having three autonomous branches.

In 1975, the Studium was established as a seminary to train candidates for the priesthood, whether members of the Our Lady of Life Institute or not, together with lay students.

In 1993, the Studium was recognised as a theological institute, accredited by the Pontifical Theological Faculty of Discalced Carmelites in Rome, *Teresiamum*.

Since it began, the Studium has received students from 46 different countries.

Spirit

Faithful to its Carmelite charism, the Studium seeks to realise **the unity between the spiritual life, theological reflection and the proclamation of the Gospel** in today's world.

Silent prayer is a privileged way of establishing real and living contact with God. It enables a loving and contemplative knowledge of God, which makes theology a living and fruitful discipline. So teachers and students are committed to making silent prayer the basis of their theological work, and to unite intellectual effort with the determination to strive towards holiness.

For us it is the first condition in discovering the Christian Mystery, the Mystery manifested in Jesus, given by 'the singular sacred deposit of the Word of God entrusted to the Church', (Dei Verbum 10), interpreted by the living Magisterium, explained by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church and lived out by the Saints.

In training its students in the service of the truth, the Studium places great store by the dialogue between faith and reason, convinced that faith both redeems and perfects reason, and that through reason, faith is both testimony to the truth and 'conversation with the world'. (Paul VI)

Remaining attentive to all fields of theological knowledge, the Studium considers research and teaching the ways of the spiritual life to be its essential tasks, leading to an integrated spiritual theology, which is the foundation of all missionary endeavour.

Procedure

Registration

Before registration, we invite applicants to set out their reasons for choosing to pursue these studies in a statement to the course director or their representative. Registration for the course confirms the student's commitment to the Studium's spiritual orientation and studies, while following the standards of academic and communal practice according to each person's situation.

Programme of studies and teaching methods

Teaching is set out in accordance with the Bologna agreements. The academic year consists of two terms offering 30 EC (European Credits)

Teaching takes three principal forms:

- **Lectures** (including some guided work) to convey the content in an integrated way.
- **Seminars** (involving collegial contribution from teaching staff and active participation from students) training students to listen to Scripture and Tradition, gradually grasping the interaction between various subjects and methods, awakening a desire for research within the Church and contributing to a communal theological endeavour.
- **Personal study** to learn the methods and attempt to analyse the works of the great authors, and to develop a propensity for reflection and written expression. A personal study programme is drawn up with each student and agreed with the Studium Director or their representative.

During their course, each student is assisted by a tutor to acquire the necessary skills and proficiency for their studies. And so they begin to explore the 'Mystery' as taught by the Church, forming their personal approach based on the lectures, interdisciplinary seminars, personal work and their own practical experience.

Studies are arranged over two cycles.

The first cycle (at least 10 terms) leads to STB (baccalaureate)

The second cycle (at least 4 terms) leads to STL (licence)

The Studium also offers a study programme of Training in Transmitting the Faith.

The Library

The Studium Library consists of nearly 35,000 volumes and 80 subscriptions to journals. The students have free access to it. Its management and reference are electronic.

Examinations and marking

Modules are assessed by means of oral or written examination and written work. They are marked according to the following criterion:

9.5 to 10 excellent	7 to 7.99 quite good
9 to 9.49 very good	6 to 6.99 pass
8 to 8.99 good	0 to 5.99 fail

A pass is achieved in an exam or written work if the student has obtained at least 6/10.

Exams can only be retaken twice.