

Course Information

Vision

Members of the Church are called to collaborate in order to create the best possible conditions where all people can develop their potential and ensure a good life for all. Analysing the political and economic situation will enable the participants to understand better how these factors inter-relate with one another and influence the life of every person and every social organization. The Social Doctrine of the Church will shed light on these issues and enable those who accept the vocation to involve themselves in the political and in the economic spheres to contribute towards the realization of the common good.

Mission

The aim of this seminar is to accompany participants to understand where we stand, and where we have to go, in order to live well our political vocation for the sake of ensuring the holistic good of every single person, especially those who are in need (not just of material resources). The course will provide participants with the basic information on contemporary issues and with the skills to face the challenges offered by our economic and socio-political culture, mainly by the neoliberal hegemony

Session 1

Where we stand: the economic, political and religious status quo in Malta and in the surrounding socio-cultural context

Date: 6th February 2017

Speaker: Prof Edward Warrington

He is Associate Professor in the Department of Public Policy at the University of Malta. Prof Edward Warrington read public administration at the University of Malta, Toronto and Oxford. He is a specialist on the governance of micro-states and islands.

Session 2

Neoliberalism: the global economic and political hegemony

Date: 13th February 2017

Speaker: Mr Michael Bonello

He is a graduate of the University of Malta and the University of Oxford, where he read philosophy, politics and economics, and served as Governor of the Central Bank of Malta from 1999 to 2011. He is currently Chairman of Lombard Bank Malta p.l.c, a member of the boards of the EWSM and of the NDSF.

Session 3

The Idolatries in the service of Neoliberalism

Date: 20th February 2017

Speaker: Prof Stefano Zamagni

He graduated in commerce and economics from the Catholic University at Milan in 1966 and, between 1969 and 1973, he spent a research period in Oxford at Linacre College. Since 1979, Prof Zamagni has been a professor at the University of Bologna. From 1985 to 2007 he served as Visiting Professor at the University of Bocconi (Milan) and as an Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins University (Bologna Centre).

Session 4

Our duty to construct a better world for all: an authentic Christian life in an active community

Date: 27th February 2017

Speaker: H.E. Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici

Graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in 1952 and as a Doctor of Laws in 1955. In 1987 Dr Mifsud Bonnici was appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of Education. In 1990, he became Minister of Education and the Interior and, in 1992, he was appointed Minister of Education and Human Resources. He was inaugurated as President of the Republic of Malta on 4th April 1994 and served until 1999.