



**INSTITUT MARONITE
DE THÉOLOGIE
ET D'ÉTUDES CHRÉTIENNES**

SYLLABUS / COURSE SYLLABUS

1. General Information

Course Title: Called and Chosen: Unleashing the Power of the Laity in Today's Church

Course Code: [To be assigned]

Semester: Fall 2025

Course Hours: 6 sessions (1.5–2 hrs), biweekly Thursdays

Instructor: Fr. Charbel Bousamra

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2. Course Description

This course explores the vital mission of the laity in the life of the Church. Drawing from the teachings of Vatican II (Lumen Gentium, Apostolicam Actuositatem) and the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (CCEO), we will rediscover the dignity and power of lay Catholics, especially within the Maronite tradition. Through theological reflection, canonical insight, and inspiring examples of lay saints—including the newly canonized Massabki brothers—participants will be equipped to live out their vocation fully, whether in family life, the workplace, or parish service.

3. Course Objectives

- Understand the theological and canonical identity of the lay faithful
- Recognize their personal vocation as a path to sanctity and apostolate
- Become familiar with the canonical rights and responsibilities of laypeople (especially in the Maronite Church)
- Reflect on lay saints and apply their witness to contemporary life

- • Develop concrete ways to bring faith into home, work, and society

4. Course Content

- Oct 9, 2025 – You’re Called to Greatness

Readings: Lumen Gentium ch. 4–5; CCEO Canons 7–11

- Oct 23, 2025 – Your Apostolate

Readings: Apostolicam Actuositatem ch. 1–3; CCEO Canons 14–17, 401

- Nov 6, 2025 – Lay and Clergy Working Together

Readings: Lumen Gentium ch. 3; Christifideles Laici §§23–29; CCEO Canons 408–411

- Nov 20, 2025 – The Family: Domestic Church

Readings: Familiaris Consortio §§49–52; CCEO Canons 1357–1364

- Dec 4, 2025 – Faith in a Digital World

Readings: Apostolicam Actuositatem ch. 5; Christifideles Laici §§30–36; CCEO Canons 573–583

- Dec 18, 2025 – Evangelization: Gospel Witness

Readings: Evangelii Nuntiandi §§70–73; CCEO Canons 588–594

5. Teaching Methods

- • Lecture-based presentations
- • Case Studies
- • Guided discussion and Q&A
- • Thematic reflection on canon law and saintly examples

6. Materials and Resources

Participants are expected to read key ecclesial texts (available freely online):

- • Lumen Gentium
- • Apostolicam Actuositatem
- • Christifideles Laici
- • Familiaris Consortio
- • Evangelii Nuntiandi

- • Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (CCEO)
- • Catechism of the Catholic Church §§897–913

Note: PDF copies of readings will not be provided; participants are expected to access them independently.

7. Grading Policy

Component	Weight
Participation	30%
Reading Completion	20%
Final Reflection	50%

Final Assignment: A 3–4 page reflection paper applying the theology and canon law of the laity to a real-life issue in the student’s parish, community, or personal life.

8. Additional Information

- • No prior theological training is required
- • All readings are freely accessible online
- • Course is taught in English
- • Designed especially for Maronite Catholic adults in Canada