



Press release

"Course on Exorcism and Prayer of Liberation" **Twentieth Edition** **May 11-15, 2026**



Twentieth Edition of the Course on Exorcism and Prayer of Liberation, organized by the **Sacerdos Institute** of the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum and **the GRIS** (Socio-religious Research and Information Group) at the headquarters of the Pontifical Athenaeum in **Rome** from 11 to 15 May 2026.

In twenty years, the Course has trained thousands of participants from over 40 countries: priests, religious, doctors, psychologists, educators, social workers and lay people interested in understanding this phenomenon in its complexity.

The course is based on the magisterium of the Church and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which describes exorcism as a sacramental: the prayer with which the Church, in the name of Christ, asks for protection from the Evil One and liberation from his dominion. Canon Law 1172 also establishes that only a priest duly authorized by the bishop can exercise this ministry, and only if he is endowed with piety, knowledge, prudence and integrity of life.

Exorcism is not approached as an isolated phenomenon. The lessons range from theology to psychology, from canon law to medicine, from anthropology to sociology, up to cultural and criminological analysis. In this perspective, faith dialogues with reason and science, in an open and rigorous confrontation.

In fact, the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum and GRIS have been able to create a meeting space in which bishops, theologians, psychologists, doctors and canonists share experiences and perspectives.

ATENEUM PONTIFICIO REGINA APOSTOLORUM

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Since 2004, representatives of other Christian denominations – Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglicans and Pentecostals – and of other religions that exercise the ministry of exorcism such as Judaism and the Muslim religion have also been involved, fostering a precious ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, based on the common experience of spiritual struggle and on the recognition of God's liberating action.

After twenty years of journey, the *Course on Exorcism and Prayer of Liberation* presents itself as a school of discernment and mercy. It is a laboratory of study and faith, where the Church and the academic world meet to better understand the mystery of evil and the redemptive power of Christ. It is not only a matter of forming exorcists, but of educating in prudence, respect for the person and spiritual responsibility.

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The **Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum (APRA)** is an ecclesiastical university institution, canonically erected to the Congregation for Catholic Education and directed by the Religious Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ. It is part of the Network of Universities of the Legion of Christ and the Regnum Christi Movement (RIU). **The international academic community**, in full harmony with the Holy Father and the Magisterium of the Church, is committed to developing a Catholic thought and culture capable of pervading the **Christian spirit in today's society**, allowing a unique experience aimed at **evangelizing culture**. **For more than 30 years** he has been training **apostles, Christian leaders – clerics and laity – at the service of the Church and society**. Through **integral training**, characterized by interdisciplinary and intercultural lines of research, innovative programs, development of transversal skills, it promotes the co-responsibility and human growth of the whole community and a solid and diversified economy in support of innovation. With the different training courses of the **3 Faculties (Theology, Philosophy and Bioethics)** and the **5 Institutes (Higher Institute of Religious Sciences, Science and Faith, Sacerdos, Institute of Bioethics and Human Rights and Higher Studies on Women)** it offers an in-depth study and further specialization in some interdisciplinary areas.

GRIS – Socio-religious Research and Information Group is a private association of Catholics, non-profit, of a cultural and religious nature, officially established on February 8, 1987.

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It operates **at the service of society and the Church** through **promotion, research and consultancy activities on religions, sects and the phenomenology** related to them, addressing these issues in their cultural, religious, scientific and social aspects.

Among its main objectives are the training and updating of educators, operators and interested persons, as well as the analysis and enhancement of pastoral, cultural, educational and scientific tools. To pursue these goals, GRIS organizes conferences, courses and meetings, involves specialists from different disciplines and produces useful materials for the dissemination of serious and documented knowledge.

The association also encourages dialogue with bodies, organizations and people belonging to different religious traditions, when available for a respectful and well-founded discussion. It offers listening centers with the support of qualified professionals and pays particular attention to those who come from complex religious or spiritualistic experiences and are looking for guidance and clarity.

GRIS completes its mission by promoting any initiative that can contribute, in a manner consistent with its institutional objectives, to the understanding, discernment and support of people in the contemporary socio-religious context.