

"The Statutes - a Path and a Mirror", upcoming lessons of the Popular Marian University - UPM

What is the UPM?

The Popular Marian University is dedicated to fostering understanding of the Marian dimension of the Church and exploring the spiritual and communal aspects of Chiara Lubich's vision. It seeks to build bridges of knowledge and unity among participants from all over the world. This year's lessons will focus on exploring the **Statutes of the Work of Mary**, examining their historical roots, spiritual significance and prophetic role as a guiding framework for the Focolare Movement.

Why Focus on the Statutes?

The Statutes are not just a set of rules but an embodiment of the charism that animates the Focolare Movement. They express a way of life rooted in the Gospel and serve as both an inheritance and a prophecy for future generations. Chiara saw them as vital for maintaining the unity of the Movement, advising their study essential for anyone committed to its mission. This is especially important in the lead up to the next General Assembly of the Movement in 2026 in order to understand if, when and how the Statutes should be modified in order to conform to Church teaching and changing cultural contexts.

Course Details

This five-part course will walk participants through the historical, spiritual and practical dimensions of the Statutes, paving the way toward the 2026 General Assembly.

11th January:

- Introduction to the course - Renata Simon, Francisco Canzani
- Leave only the Gospel - Fabio Ciardi, Lucia Abignente, Adriana Cosseddu

8th February:

- The Charism and the Rule - Fabio Ciardi
- A life together expressed by Law - Tiziana Merletti

8th March:

- Approaching the Statutes: a historical understanding - Lucia Abignente
- The Statutes: inheritance and prophecy - Adriana Cosseddu

12th April:

- Travelling with the Church - Andrew Reception
- Rules and Freedom - Tommaso Bertolasi

10th May:

How to read the Statutes (Panel Discussion) - Raphael Takougang, Cristiane Ribeiro, Elfriede Glaubitz

The lessons will be offered in **five languages** (Italian, English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese) and streamed online for global access.

Join Us!

Mark your calendars and connect with us on the dates listed above, starting at 3 PM Irish time. Access the sessions through the **Focolare Movement's official YouTube channel** or via [universitapopolaremariana.org](https://www.universitapopolaremariana.org).

For inquiries, contact: **upm@focolare.org** or **focolare.ireland@focolare.org** or **focolare.belfast@focolare.org**

[1] https://www.cittanuova.it/gli-statuti-dellopera-di-maria/?ms=001&se=013&utm_source=chatgpt.com