

“In the school of Theology, for the lectures of which no particular subject of this discipline is specified in the Statute, in order to open the way to a complete education to their students, the Professors engaged in dealing with fundamental subjects which constituted the essential elements of the study of Theology”.<sup>1</sup> (E. Rossignaud, Rector of the University of Malta, reporting on the academic year 1838-1839).

## **The Contribution of the University of Malta In the Formation of the Maltese Priests 1838-1850**

Francis Bonnici

### **Introduction**

In my book, *For Service alone*<sup>2</sup>, about the Institution of the Seminary of Malta, I wrote that when the Seminary opened its doors to six students on 25 March 1703, “the first group of well educated and ecclesiastically well-formed clergy was the beginning of a long line of priests who received their formation in the Seminary of Malta.”<sup>3</sup>

However, it should be said that in Malta the formation of priests was imparted also by the University of Malta through the Faculty of Theology. *Ea semper* (25 June 1777), the *Motu proprio* about Clerics and personal immunity, which Pope Pius VI addressed specifically to the Diocese of Malta, allows “the Bishop to confer the first Tonsure to the young man who, after his tenth birthday, has spent three years in a Seminary or in a College; if this was not possible, he should have dressed his clerical habit with the permission of the Bishop and during a three year period he had served a particular church assigned to him by the Bishop; or if any young man wanted to frequent any University to follow his studies, this time of study at the University would be accounted to his credit to merit the first Tonsure.”<sup>4</sup>

1. National Archives Rabat-Malta G.M.R. Doc. N. 13, p.8.
2. Francis Bonnici, *For Service alone*, The Institution of the Seminary of Malta and its Development as recorded in the Pastoral Visits of the Maltese Diocese 1703-2003, Malta 2003.
3. See *ibid.*, 9.
4. PIUS VI, *Motu proprio Ea semper*, 25 June 1777, n. 5, for its Latin original, cf. PHILIP CALLUS, *The Rising of the Priests: Its Implications and Repercussions on Ecclesiastical Immunity*, Malta 1961, for its translation in Italian, cf. ACHILLE FERRIS, *Storia Ecclesiastica di Malta*, Malta 1877, 291.

*Ea semper* adds that “such young people after the first Tonsure could not be promoted to the sacred Orders if in the time that elapses between the first Tonsure and the sacred Orders, they did not lead a life dedicated to study and to the exercises of piety. For this reason they should live in a Seminary or in an ecclesiastical College and, as prescribed before, they have served that church that was assigned to them. If they frequented a University or an alternative institution for the purpose of study, they should fulfill the requirements prescribed for those who ask to receive the first Tonsure. At the beginning of every year all Clerics in first Tonsure or in minor Orders are duty bound to present to the Bishop testimonials with authenticated documents regarding their fulfilment of the requirements as asked for by the Council of Trent concerning the habit and the clerical tonsure and the other things as said before; that means that they should present the testimony of the Rector or Superior of the Seminary or of the Ecclesiastical College; and those who have not lived in a seminary or in a college, the testimonial of the Parish priest and Rector of the churches where they have been assigned, regarding the carrying of their habit and the clerical tonsure, the frequency of the Sacraments, and the services rendered to the Church, and they should also present the testimonials of the Heads and the Professors of the schools showing their regular attendance of the school and the continuation of their studies, together with the carrying of the habit and the clerical tonsure.”<sup>5</sup>

A Royal Commission composed of John Austin, a Professor of Law at the University of London, and George Cornwall Lewis, was appointed on 16 September 1836 to report back to the Minister of the Colonies of His Royal Highness in London, Lord Glenelg, on the University of Malta. In their report (27 April, 1838), the commissioners wrote that “Without a doctor’s degree in law or medicine from the University, no one can lawfully practise as an advocate or physician in Malta. But Holy Orders may be obtained in Malta, without a like degree in theology; and we understand that the number of doctors in theology amongst the catholic clergy of the island does not exceed 30.”<sup>6</sup>

It is interesting to note that the University of Malta really presented an alternative to the Seminary in the formation of priests. A comparison between the names

5. See *Ibid.*, pp. 292-293.

6. *Report of the Royal Commission John Austin and George Cornwall*, in ANDREW P. VELLA, *The University of Malta*, Malta 1969, 79.

registered in the lists of the students who studied in the Faculty of Theology<sup>7</sup> and the names in lists of students who received their formation at the Seminary<sup>8</sup> during the period 1837 and 1850, the period under consideration in this paper, do not coincide. However, there is no place at all and I do not intend to compare and contrast the different kinds of formation that the prospective candidates to the priesthood received at the Seminary of Malta and at the University of Malta. This paper dealing with the formation of the students who attended the Faculty of Theology between 1838 and 1850, will be followed by other papers dealing with the continuous formation that the University of Malta and the Faculty of Theology gave to the Maltese priests in subsequent periods of times.

### *The renewal of the University*

On 2 September 1839,<sup>9</sup> the Rector of the University of Malta, Monsignor Emmanuel Rossignaud, sent a letter to the Governor of the Island of Malta, Sir H. J. Bouverie, in which he reported on the progress which the University of Malta made the preceding year. In order to abide with article 16 of the Basic Statute, the Rector thought it was best to deal also with each one of the different branches attached to this establishment of public instruction, namely the Lyceum, the Library, the Botanical gardens, and the Anatomy Theatre. The Rector intended to report also on elementary education and the primary schools which fell under his responsibility; he was the only person who was commissioned to administer them according to a letter that was sent to him on 19 August 1839 by the Secretary of the Government.

This was the first report from the Rector of the University on the new system of public instruction in Malta that was proposed by the Royal Commission.<sup>10</sup> That same year, on the insistence of the Governor, Ignatius Bonavita compiled the Basic Statute which according to Bonavita himself satisfied the Governor and also one of the Commissioners.<sup>11</sup> Andrew P. Vella, the author of *The University of Malta*, says

7. The names of the students who frequented the Faculty of Theology are found further down in this same paper.
8. Francis Bonnici, *For Service alone*, 153-156.
9. National Archives Rabat-Malta, Section GMR Doc. 13, p.1.
10. *Report of the Royal Commission John Austin and George Cornwall*, in ANDREW P. VELLA, *The University of Malta*, Malta 1969, 77.
11. See *Ibid.*, 80.

that “the Statuto Fondamentale was for nearly seventy years to exercise a deadening effect as the *Statuto Fondamentale* of the University.”<sup>12</sup>

In his report, the Rector referred that as soon as he received the Basic Statute, he immediately took action and called a meeting of the General Council, as required by article 171 of the Statute, for the purpose of establishing provisional measures deemed necessary to initiate the studies in the different schools of the University, but which were not foreseen by the Statute, consider also they had the direction of the different classes in the Lyceum.<sup>13</sup>

A committee was purposely chosen from among the members of the General Council to prepare in a few weeks time a provisional plan; as soon as this provisional plan was ready, the Rector submitted it to the approval of the Government. Once this plan of action was approved it was carried out. With the strength of the Basic Statute, and helped by the provisional rules, the Rector was prepared to announce to the general public the immediate opening of the new courses of studies at the University. Through a notification published in the Government Gazette, the Rector invited those young people who wanted to benefit from the immense advantages of public instruction to apply for admission to the courses.<sup>14</sup>

Reporting on the University as a body which imparted literary and scientific instruction at the highest level, the Rector of the University said that such instruction required very justifiably that before admitting young people to the different courses, it was necessary that they should be examined about those subjects that were covered in secondary schools and which constituted the essential basis for further studies.<sup>15</sup>

The examination was instituted and conducted by the Rector himself following the new Statute, it did not cover those subjects which were not taught at the Lyceum before the institution of the examination, and therefore the students would not be obliged to study those subjects. The total number of students who were then admitted to the University was 98: 9 joined the Faculty of Theology, 28 the Faculty of Law,

12. See Ibid.

13. See *Minutes of the Special Council of the Theology*, University Archives, Valletta, 31 Dicembre 1838, 2.

14. See Ibid., 3.

15. See Ibid., 4.

28 the Faculty of Medicine, and 33 joined the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts. A number of students who did not present themselves for the examination joined the different Faculties as auditors, and they would attend the courses as it was stipulated by article 148 of the Basic Statute.<sup>16</sup>

Academic year 1838-1839 opened with an inaugural ceremony, which included an oration made by one of the Professors. During the year, the Special Councils of the Faculties met periodically and in their meetings they would examine the progress of the Faculty, the subjects the Professors had to cover that academic year, and also the method of imparting the lectures.<sup>17</sup>

Reporting about the Faculties of Philosophy and Arts, Medicine, Law, and Theology, Mgr. Rossignaud gave details about: 1) the different branches of each Faculty, 2) the text books used in each Faculty, and 3) the Professors and the reactions of the Students.<sup>18</sup>

In the school of Theology, the Professors, with the intention of opening the way to a complete education for their students, engaged with basic subjects which constituted the essential elements of the study of Theology. The Professor of Dogma, Rev. Dr Peter Paul Psaila, for instance, lectured on the sources of Theology (*luoghi teologici*), the existence of God and Religion. The Professor of Moral Theology or Ethics, Rev. Dr Salvatore Cumbo, covered the subjects of human acts, conscience and Laws. The texts books used were *Le Istituzioni teologiche*<sup>19</sup> of Gaetano De Fulgure<sup>20</sup> and the book on Moral Theology<sup>21</sup> of Paul-Gabriel Antoine.<sup>22</sup>

Thirty students from all the three Faculties of Theology, Law and Medicine who at the end of the year finished their professional studies, asked to receive their decrees. Making sure that they were right in making their request, the Rector asked them to submit themselves to the formal examinations set by the Special Councils. On 19 July the Doctoral Decree was conferred on 24 of the young men: in Theology – 5 students, in Law – 12, in Medicine – 7.

16. See *Ibid.*, 5.

17. See *Ibid.*, 5-6.

18. See Appendix 1.

19. See Appendix 2.

20. See Appendix 3

21. See Appendix 2.

22. See Appendix 3

### *The running of the Faculty of Theology*

With reference to the Government's notice of 20 August 1838 and by the letter of the Government dated 17 December 1838, His Excellency the Governor, H.J. Bouverie, nominated the members who were to constitute the Special Council of the Faculty of Theology. The members of this Special Council were the following: Canon Emmanuel Rossignaud D.D.<sup>23</sup>, the Rector; Archpriest Joseph Galea D.D.;<sup>24</sup> Parish Priest Louis Fernandes D.D.,<sup>25</sup> Canon D.D. Peter Paul Psaila, Professor, and the Rev. D.D. Saviour Cumbo, Professor.<sup>26</sup>

The Rector of the University of Malta sent a letter to the members of the Special Council to meet in Valletta on 31 December 1838. The Special Council met in the hall of the Councils. The agenda of the meeting included a discussion about the textbooks of Theology, namely, for Dogma the *Institutiones Theologicae* of Cajetano De Fulgure, and for Moral Theology the *Theologia Moralis Universa* of Paul-Gabriel Antoine.<sup>27</sup> The other item on the agenda was the timetable of the lectures.<sup>28</sup>

This plan of imparting the teaching of Theology to the Students of the Faculty of Theology was a provisional measure, in lieu of a permanent Plan of studies for the study of Theology at the University which the Faculty had to prepare in accordance with the Basic Statute of the University.<sup>29</sup>

On 4 February 1839, another meeting of the Special Council of the Faculty of Theology was held on the University premises in Valletta.<sup>30</sup> The Special Council examined the way in which the teaching of Theology was carried out in the last months, as well as the studies that were undertaken by the students. The Professor

23. Rev. Emmanuel Rossignaud hailing from Valletta was ordained priest on 26 May 1822, see JOSEPH CALLEJA, *Ordinazzjonijiet Sacerdotali 1800-2000*, Malta 2001, 11.

24. Rev. Giuseppe Galea hailing from Mqabba was ordained priest 23 September 1937, Cf. CALLEJA, 19.

25. Rev. Fernandez Luigi, hailing from Senglea was ordained priest 8 April 1827, Cf. CALLEJA, 14.

26. See *Minutes of the Special Council of Theology*, University Archives, Valletta, 31 Dicembre 1838, p.1.

27. See *Ibid.*

28. See *Ibid.*

29. See *Ibid.*, 2.

30. See *Ibid.*

of Dogma, Rev. Dr Peter Paul Psaila, lectured on the sources of Theology (*luoghi teologici*), the Existence of God, and Religion. The Professor of Moral Theology or Ethics, Rev. Dr Salvatore Cumbo, covered the subjects of Human acts, Conscience and Laws. The text books used were *Le Istituzioni teologiche* of Gaetano De Fulgure together with the book on Moral Theology by Paul Gabriel Antoine. The Special Council approved the performance of the Professors as well as that of the Students.<sup>31</sup>

The second item on the agenda of the Special Council of the Faculty of Theology was the presentation of the Plan of the Theological studies that had to be followed during the scholastic year. The following are the subjects that had to be covered in the theological course, namely:

1. Dogmatic Theology: *De Locis Theologicis*, which included the existence of God, and Religion.
2. Moral Theology: *De actibus humanis*, *De Coscientia*, *De Legibus*.<sup>32</sup>

The last item on the agenda of this meeting of the Special Council was the recommendation which the Special Council wanted to make to the Students of Theology to attend the lectures on the Hebrew language which although its study was not absolutely necessary, was of great utility for the science of Theology. In the opinion of Professor Cumbo who was well versed in this language, studying the language for half an hour a day was enough to achieve what the Students needed for the study of Theology.<sup>33</sup>

The next meeting of the Special Council was held on 4 March 1839 and in it the proceedings of the school of Theology were presented to the Council and they were approved by it. Then the Council discussed once more the items of the agenda of the last meeting.<sup>34</sup>

31. See *Ibid.*, 3.

32. *Ibid.*, 3, "E ... l'alteriore andamento ha // creduto di classificare le materie per tutto / quest'anno scolastico al modo seguente / In quanto alla Dogmatica "De Locis / Theologicis compresa l'esistenza di / Dio, e della Religione. /In quanto alla Morale il trattato "De / Actibus humanis, De Coscientia et / de Legibus."

33. See *Ibid.* The topic about the Hebrew language will be dealt with later on within the introduction of the Studies about Holy Scripture.

34. See *Ibid.*, 4.

## *Examinations*

### *A model examination process*

When the Special Council met on 8 April 1839, Professors Psaila and Cumbo submitted to the Council a set of propositions related to the subjects on which they intended to examine the students of the final year of the course of Theology.<sup>35</sup> The Council approved these propositions. Then the members of the Council asked the Professors to present another set of propositions which they had to prepare for the students who were at the moment frequenting the school of Theology.<sup>36</sup>

Rev. Paul Pullicino who already had a Licentiate in Sacred Theology, having finished his studies in Theology at the University, and after writing to the Rector to notify him that he wanted to sit for the examination leading to the Doctorate and having presented all the certificates required by the Statute in order to be admitted for the examination, he acquired his request from the Rector.<sup>37</sup> When the Special Council met on 1 May 1839, the Rector asked the members of the Council to proceed to examine the candidate. According to article 151 of the Statute, the Student first sat for an oral examination which was carried out by the non-teaching members of the Council and which took about three quarters of an hour.<sup>38</sup> Then, Rev. Galea drew one of the propositions from the urn and it was proposition number 12<sup>39</sup>, which read: "*Ad meritum, et demeritum in statu naturae lapsae non sufficit libertas a coatione, sed requiritur libertas ab omni necessitate intrinseca antecedenti etiam voluntaria trascibili*".

Then the candidate went to another room where, under the supervision of Rev. Galea, he wrote his dissertation on the assigned thesis. In the meantime, the Council adjourned its meeting to 4.00p.m. in order to examine the written answer and decide on the performance of the student in the oral and written examinations.<sup>40</sup> When the Special Council met in the afternoon, Rev. Galea presented the written paper

35. See Ibid., 5-6.

36. See Ibid., 6.

37. See Ibid.

38. See. Ibid., 7.

39. Ibid., 7-8, "Indi da un'urna contenente le tesi approvate, il Rev.mo Arciprete Galea trasse una che corrisponde alla 12 dell'Elenco."

40. See Ibid., 8.



duly signed and stamped by himself in conformity with article 155 of the Statute.<sup>41</sup> When the paper was read, it was voted upon by the non-teaching members and the candidate was *approved with full marks*.<sup>42</sup>

### *Conducting the examinations*

The Special Council of the Faculty of Theology met on 6 May 1839.<sup>43</sup> During the sitting, Professors Psaila and Cumbo presented the set of propositions related to the subjects taught in conformity with article 152 of the Basic Statute and on which the Students would be examined at the end of the academic year. The members of the Council decided to meet within a week to approve the propositions and as a matter of fact they met on the 13 of May 1839; the Council approved the list of the propositions which were presented by Professors Dr Psaila and Dr Cumbo.<sup>44</sup>

In conducting the examinations, the non-teaching members of the Special Council made the oral examinations as follows: Archpriest Galea examined Peter Paul Borg and Vincent Magri, Parish Priest Fernandes examined Paul Camilleri and Michaelangelo Sammut, and Rev. D. Speranza examined Michaelangelo Grima. Each oral examination took three quarters of an hour. Four interviews were made in the morning and one in the afternoon. Then the Special Council adjourned for the next day in order to give a written examination to the Students.<sup>45</sup>

When the members of the Special Council met the next day (20 June 1839), each one of the non-teaching members in turn drew a thesis for each one of the candidates from an urn that contained the theses that had been approved by the Special Council.<sup>46</sup>

The students wrote their dissertation in the Theology Hall from 8.30a.m. to 2.30p.m. under the supervision of Parish Priest Fernandes and Archpriest Galea.<sup>47</sup>

41. See *Ibid.*, 8-9..

42. See *Ibid.*, 9. Paul Pullicino hailing from Valletta was ordained priest on 16 March 1839. Cf. CALLEJA, 20.

43. See *Minutes of the Special Council*, *ibid.*

44. See *Ibid.*, 10-11.

45. See *Ibid.*, 13-14.

46. See *Ibid.*, 14.

47. See *Ibid.*, 15.

When the Special Council met again the same day, 20 June 1839, in the afternoon<sup>48</sup>, Parish Priest Fernandes presented the scripts of the candidates which he opened and read them to the examiners.

The first script was of Rev. Fr Peter Paul Borg.<sup>49</sup> When the script was voted upon its merits, it was *approved*. The scripts of Rev. Paul Camilleri<sup>50</sup>, Cleric Michaelangel Grima,<sup>51</sup> Rev. Fr Vincent Magri<sup>52</sup> and that of Rev. Subdeacon Michaelangelo Sammut<sup>53</sup> were all *approved with full marks*.<sup>54</sup>

According to a decision taken during the Extraordinary Session of the General Council that was held on 5 June 1839 another procedure of conducting the examinations had to be followed in the future, namely, that the paper of the student would be first read by the Examiners and then they would interview the student for thirty minutes.

#### *Updating the programme of studies: Sacred Scripture*

When the Special Council met on 3 June 1839<sup>55</sup>, Professor Cumbo submitted a report on Sacred Scripture and he said that he wanted to make copies of it to distribute it to the members of the Special Council so that they could discuss it in the next meeting.<sup>56</sup>

The Special Council adjourned to 22 June 1839 in the morning in order to discuss the paper by Professor Cumbo. The discussion was held on the paper which Professor Cumbo was proposing about the Scripture lessons, but the Council opted

48. See *Ibid.*

49. Rev. Peter Paul Borg hailing from Balzan was ordained priest on 20 May 1837. Cf. CALLEJA, 19.

50. Rev. Paul Camilleri hailing from Siggiewi was ordained priest on 22 December 1838. Cf. *IBID.*, 20.

51. Cleric Michaelangel Grima is not found in JOSEPH CALLEJA, *Ordinazzjonijiet sacerdotali 1800-2000*.

52. Rev. Vincent Magri hailing from Attard was ordained priest on 9 June 1838. Cf. CALLEJA, 19.

53. Deacon Michaelangelo Sammut hailing from Floriana was ordained priest on 18 December 1841. Cf. CALLEJA, 21.

54. See *Minutes of the Special Council*, 16-17.

55. See *Ibid.*, 11.

56. See *Ibid.*, 11-12.

to continue to discuss the matter in another session.<sup>57</sup>

The Council, while considering seriously the project presented by Professor Cumbo about the lectures in writing, asked Professor Psaila to formulate another project wherein he would show where the first project needed to be amended.<sup>58</sup>

The Special Council of the Faculty of Theology met on 13 January 1840 and Professor Psaila presented the project which was asked for by the Special Council in the meeting of 23 September 1839. The members of the Council were of the opinion that the project which was presented in writing should be distributed to each one of the members of the Special Council so that each one could make his observations.<sup>59</sup>

On 21 June 1840, the Rector asked the members of the Council to make a final decision about the reports concerning the lecture notes that had been presented by the Professors some time before. The Council wanted to take the matter seriously and it thought it expedient to decide on the matter and to coordinate the different subjects covered in the academic course of studies of Theology, which were intended to form the student of Theology who once in the ecclesiastical career he would put in practice the theories that he learned at school. For this reason, the Council asked the professors to work together and to form a plan for coordinating the subjects

57. Ibid., 17-18, "Università, Valletta 22 Giugno 1839. Il Consiglio di Teologia si è riunito, e v'in tervennero il Rettore, L' Arciprete Galea, Il Professor Psaila, ed il Professor Cumbo – Il Consiglio dopo di aver fatto una discussione sul soggetto delle lezioni scritturali proposte dal Professor Cumbo, si è riservato di parlare di nuovo sullo stesso in un'altra seduta da tenere in un giorno da destinarsi."

58. Ibid., 24, "Università, Valletta 23 Settembre 1839. Finalmente il Consiglio, stante il progetto esibitogli dal Prof. Cumbo sul soggetto delle lezioni scritturali, progetto che fin oggi occupò la seria attenzione di questo Consiglio, ha invitato il Professor Psaila a formarne un altro, ove creda che il primo sia suscettibile di modificazione. "

59. Ibid., 28-29, "*Università, Valletta 13 Gennajo 1840. Convocato il Consiglio Speciale di Teologia a tenor dell'art.o 29 dello Statuto fondamentale, sono intervenuti il Rettore, il Parroco D.r Fernandes, il Professor Psaila ed il Professor Cumbo - Seduto il Consiglio, il Professore Can.co Psaila presentò al Consiglio il progetto di che fu invitato da questo istesso Consiglio nella seduta del 23 Settembre ultimo scorso.- Il Consiglio andò nell'opinione dovessi tale scritto circolare presso i membri di questo Consiglio, onde essere poi nel caso di farne le opportune osservazioni..*" Ibid., 28-29.

allowing the Council to make the final decision.<sup>60</sup>

### **The Hebrew language**

The Special Council wanted to make the recommendation to the Students of Theology to attend the lectures in the Hebrew language which although its study was not absolutely necessary, was of great utility for the science of Theology. In the opinion of Professor Cumbo who was well versed in this language, studying the language for half an hour a day, would have been enough to achieve what the Students needed for the study of Theology.<sup>61</sup>

On 17 December 1839, the Professors presented the plan as instructed by the General Council on 31 October 1839, and the Special Council engaged in the examination of the plan. In conformity with the ecclesiastical constitutions and especially in accordance with the dispositions of Clement V in the Council of Vienna, being in existence a school of the Hebrew Language, the Rector proposed that this school would be incorporated in the school of Theology because it was a subject that helped the students in the study of Theology. The Council agreed with the proposal and it suggested that the lectures in the Hebrew Language would be given in the second and fourth year when they would be delivered everyday in the afternoon.<sup>62</sup>

However, it was well noted that neither the Basic Statute nor the Proclamation of the Government of 18 August 1838 did mention the existence of this school in the University, although it existed in the Lyceum; therefore the Council thought it not proper to oblige the students of Theology to attend the Hebrew course; nor would the Teacher of this language be another Professor besides the two Professors of Theology.<sup>63</sup>

60. Ibid., 45-46, "*Università, Valletta 21 Giugno 1841. "Il Rettore ha in primo luogo pregato i Signori del Consiglio, a voler dare una finale risoluzione intorno agli scritti che da tempo trovansi esibiti dai professori, e che riguardano le lezioni scritturali. Il Consiglio, occupatosi seriamente dell'affare in questione, ha creduto spediente di avere sott'occhio ... di decidere questo punto, una coordinazione delle materie da percorrerli dentro un corso accademico di studio di teologia, atti a formare un allievo di Teologia il quale mettendosi nella carriera del ministero ecclesiastico potrebbe .... praticare le teorie apprese in scuola; per lo che ha richiesto i professori a voler formare insieme tale piano di coordinazione di materie, riservandosi esso Consiglio, di emettere sul proposito una finale risoluzione."*

61. See Ibid., 3.

62. See Ibid., 26-27.

63. See Ibid., 27.

The Special Council unanimously approved the plan that was presented by the Professors to be forwarded to the General Council as asked for on 31 October 1839.<sup>64</sup>

## ***2. The Latin language***

The agenda of the meeting of 23 September 1839 included a motion that was moved by Professor Psaila asking that the Latin language should be the language that the student would use in the examination for the academic degrees, and also the language that the Professors should use in their lectures. Dr Psaila gave several reasons for his motion and they were written and kept with the minutes of the Council. Then the Council agreed to suggest the following decision: While upholding article 142 of the Basic Statute regarding the language that should be used by the Professors in their explanations of their subject matters, the Students of Theology, in their answers to the questions of the Professors when making the revision, as well as in their oral and written examinations for the degrees, should use the Latin language.<sup>65</sup>

### ***The Students in the Courses of Theology Year 1838-39***

The Special Council of Theology made a sitting on 19 June 1839 to meet the students of the last year of the course of Theology who asked the Rector of the University to be admitted for the examination leading to their doctoral degree. The students had the necessary requisites and therefore they were admitted for the examination.<sup>66</sup>

The following is a list of the candidates who sat for the examination and their results:  
 Rev. Fr. Peter Paul Borg<sup>67</sup>, *Approved*.  
 Rev. Fr Paul Camilleri <sup>68</sup>, *Approved with full marks*.  
 Cleric Michaelangelo Grima, *Approved with full marks*.

64. Ibid., 27, "Infine il Consiglio ha unanimamente / approvato il piano esibito, raccomandando / al Consiglio Generale a tenor della delibe-/razione da esso fatta il 31 ottobre p.p./ E. Can.co Rossignaud Rettore."

65. See Ibid., 23-24.

66. See Ibid., 12-13.

67. Rev. Peter Paul Borg hailing from Balzan was ordained priest on 20 May 1837, Cf. CALLEJA, 19.

68. Rev. Paul Camilleri hailing from Siggiewi was ordained priest on 22 December 1838, Cf. CALLEJA, 20.

Rev. Fr Vincent Magri<sup>69</sup>, *Approved with full marks*  
 Subdeacon Michaelangelo Sammut,<sup>70</sup> *Approved with full marks.*<sup>71</sup>

### ***Course 1838-1842***

#### ***Year 1838-1839***

The Special Council met on 9 September 1839<sup>72</sup> for the examination of the students according to article 62 of the Fundamental Statute.

The following is a list of the candidates who sat for the examination and their results:

Cleric Joseph Abela, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Cleric Ludwig Balzan, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Cleric Joseph Callus, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Cleric Joachim Frendo, *Approved.*  
 Cleric Antonio Mifsud, *Approved*  
 Cleric Gio Baptist Sammut was *Approved with full marks and praise.*<sup>73</sup>

#### ***Year 1839-1840***

The Special Council of Theology met on 22 June 1840 to examine the Students on the subjects covered during the second year of the academic course of Theology.<sup>74</sup>

#### ***Subjects studied***

The Professor of Dogmatic Theology taught the courses “*De Divinis attributis*”, “*De Deo Trino et Creatore*” while the Professor of Moral Theology gave the course: “*De Peccatis et De Virtutibus, theologicis et moralibus*”.<sup>75</sup>

69. Rev. Vincent Magri hailing from Attard was ordained priest on 9 June 1838, Cf. CALLEJA, 19.

70. Deacon Michaelangelo Sammut hailing from Floriana was ordained priest on 18 December 1841, Cf. CALLEJA, 21.

71. See *Minutes of the Special Council*, 16-17.

72. See *Ibid.*, 18.

73. See *Ibid.*, 22.

74. See *Ibid.*, 32.

75. See *Ibid.*, 23.

The following is a list of the candidates who sat for the examination and their results:

- Cleric Giuseppe Abela, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Rev. Subdeacon Ludovico Balzan, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Rev. Subdeacon Joseph Callus, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Joachim Frendo, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Rev. Subdeacon Antonio Mifsud, *Approved.*  
 Rev. Deacon: Gio Battista Sammut, *Approved with full marks and praise.*<sup>76</sup>

### ***Year 1840-1841***

The Special Council of the Faculty of Theology met on 21 June 1841 to examine the students of the Faculty<sup>77</sup> of the third year on the subjects studied that year.

The following is a list of the candidates who sat for the examination and their results:

- Cleric Joseph Abela, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Deacon Ludwig Balzan, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Deacon Joseph Callus, *Approved with full marks and praise.*  
 Cleric Joachim Frendo, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Deacon Anthony Mifsud, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Deacon Gio Battista Sammut, *Approved with marks and praise.*<sup>78</sup>

### ***Year 1841-1842***

The Council, with Rev. O Malley, Rector of the University present, met again at the end of the scholastic year, on 16 June 1842 to hold the examinations of the Students of Theology who had followed the course 1839-42.

***Subjects studied:***  
*The Sacraments*<sup>79</sup>.

The following is a list of the candidates who sat for the examination and their results:

76. See *Ibid.*, 35-36.  
 77. See *Ibid.*, 43.  
 78. See *Ibid.*, 47-48.  
 79. See *Ibid.*, 49-50..

Cleric Joseph Abela<sup>80</sup> *was approved with full marks.*  
 Deacon Ludwig Balzan<sup>81</sup> *was approved with full marks.*  
 Rev. Joseph Callus<sup>82</sup> *was approved with full mark and praise.*  
 Cleric Joachim Frendo *was approved with full marks.*  
 Deacon Anthony Mifsud<sup>83</sup> *was approved with full marks.*  
 Rev. Gio Baptist Sammut<sup>84</sup> *was approved with full marks and praise.*<sup>85</sup>

On 9 October 1840, the Special Council of the Faculty of Theology decided to keep on lecturing to the old students in Dogmatic and Moral Theology; however no new students entered the Faculty this year, because although there was one Student who sat for the examinations and was admitted to the Faculty of Theology, he left the school. In this meeting the Professors presented the list of subjects on which they had to examine the students in their written examinations<sup>86</sup>.

### ***Course 1842–1846*** ***Year 1842-1843***

The Special Council of Theology met on 4 October 1843 to hold the examinations, which according to a Government letter dated 7 August 1843, were postponed to October 1843.<sup>87</sup>

*Subjects studied:*

*Religion, Theological loci, Human acts, Conscience and Laws.*<sup>88</sup>

The following is a list of the candidates who sat for the examination and their results:

80. Cleric Joseph Abela, hailing from Zejtun was ordained priest on 18 December 1848, Cf. CALLEJA, 22.
81. Deacon Ludwig Balzan hailing from Vittoriosa was ordained priest on 11 March 1843, Cf. CALLEJA, 21.
82. Rev. Joseph Callus hailing from Żebbuġ was ordained priest on 21 May 1842, Cf. CALLEJA, 21.
83. Deacon Anthony Mifsud was from Qormi was ordained priest on 17 December 1842, Cf. CALLEJA, 21.
84. Rev. John Baptist Sammut hailing from Attard was ordained priest on 21 May 1842, Cf. CALLEJA, 21.
85. *Minutes of the Special Council, 52-53.*
86. *See Ibid., 37.*
87. *See Ibid., 55-56.*
88. *See Ibid.*



Cleric Julian Curmi, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Cleric Vincent Dingli, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Cleric Joseph Pellegrini, *Approved with full marks.*<sup>89</sup>  
 Dr Calcedonius Debono, *Examination postponed.*

**Course 1842-1846**  
**Year 1843-1844**

The Special Council of Theology met on 17 June 1844 to hold the examination at the end of the scholastic year 1843-1844, the second year of the course 1842-1846. The new Rector of the University, W.H. Butt, was present for the meetings and in the subsequent meetings of the Special Council of Theology.

***Subjects studied:***

*De Deo Uno, Trino et Creatore, de Angelis, de Mundo, de Peccatis, de Virtutibus theologicis et moralibus.*<sup>90</sup>

The following is a list of the candidates who sat for the examination and their results:

Cleric Julian Curmi, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Cleric Vincent Dingli, *Approved with full marks.*  
 Cleric Joseph Pellegrini, *Approved with full marks.*<sup>91</sup>  
 Dr Calcedonius Debono,<sup>92</sup> *Approved with full marks and praise.*<sup>93</sup>

89. *See Ibid.*, 57-58.

90. *See Ibid.*, 59.

91. *See Ibid.*, 61-62.

92. The Special Council of Theology met on 4 November 1844 to examine Cleric Dr. Calcedonius Debono, a Student in the Theology course 1842-1846 and in case that he was approved in the subjects of the first year, he would be examined also on the subjects of the second year. Because of a legitimate hindrance, Dr Debono could not be present with his colleagues for the examination. The Council adjourned to 13 November 1844. *Ibid.*, 62-63. Therefore the Council adjourned to the next day (14 November 1844) to examine the Student Dr Calcedonius Debono on the subjects of the second year.<sup>92</sup> Since Archpriest Galea was indisposed, the Special Council of Theology was postponed to 26 November 1844. *Ibid.*, 63-64.

93. *See Ibid.*, 63-64.

**Course 1842-1846**  
**Year 1844-1845**

The Special Council of Theology met on 19 June 1845 to make the examination of Cleric Joseph Pellegrini, a Student of the Faculty of Theology in the third scholastic year 1844-1845 of the academic course 1842-1846. At their own request, his colleagues and the students of the first Students were granted permission by His Excellency the Governor to sit for their examinations at the end of September.<sup>94</sup>

**Subjects studied:**

*de Incarnatione, de Gratia Christi, de altera vita hominis, de contractibus / in genere, de contractibus in specie, et de Religione.*<sup>95</sup>

The candidates who sat for the examination and his result:

Cleric Vincent Dingli, *Approved with full marks.*<sup>96</sup>

Cleric Joseph Pellegrini, *Approved with full marks.*<sup>97</sup>

Dr Calcedonius Debono<sup>98</sup>, *Approved with full marks.*<sup>99</sup>

**Course 1842-1846 (third year) (cont.)**  
**Course 1844-1848 (first year)**  
**Year 1844-1845**

The Special Council of Theology met on 9 October 1845 to examine the students of Theology on the subjects studied during the scholastic year 1844-1845, the first year of the academic course 1844-1848, and the third year of the academic course 1842-1846.<sup>100</sup>

94. See *Ibid.*, 67.

95. See *Ibid.*

96. Cleric Vincent Dingli sat for the third year examination on 9 October 1845.

97. See *Ibid.*, 67-68.

98. Dr Calcedonius Debono hailing from Valletta, studied also for JUD and was ordained priest on 22 December 1849, Cf. Calleja, 23.

99. See Minutes of the Special Council, 74-75: "Dr Calcedonius Debono presented himself to sit for the examination of the third scholastic year 1844-1845 on 17 February 1846. This examination was postponed to today because Dr Debono could not be present for the examination with his colleagues for a legitimate reason." See also pp. 72-73.

100. "Esami degli studenti di teologia sulle materie / studiate nello scorso anno scolastico, 44-45, primo / del corso accademico 1844-48; e terzo del corso / accademico 1842-46. – Le quali materie sono / appunto quelle notate nel presente libro sotto / il 19 giugno 1845, ove anche trovansi notato / il perchè furono finora difficili i detti esami. /", *Ibid.*, 69.

***Subjects studied:***

*de Incarnatione, de Gratia Christi, de Altera vita hominis, de Contractibus / in genere, de Contractibus in specie, et de Religione.*<sup>101</sup>

***Course 1844-1848******Year 1844-1845***

*Cleric Vincent Dingli (third year), Approved with full marks.*

*Cleric Calcedonius Agius (first year), Approved with full marks.*

*Cleric Salvatore Caruana (first year), Approved with full marks.*

*Cleric Salvatore Spiteri (first year)*<sup>102</sup>, *Approved with full marks.*<sup>103</sup>

***A “Special Student”***

On 17 February 1846, the Special Council of Theology met to give the examinations to Rev. Peter Paul Psaila and Dr Calcedonius Debono.

“Rev. Peter Paul Psaila had been a Student of the Faculty of Theology of the University in the course that ended in 1838, just before the first publication of the Statute and which is in force today. For a legitimate reason, Rev. Psaila did not present himself with his colleagues for the final examinations leading to the Doctorate although he had previously sat for examinations leading to the Licentiate in Sacred Theology. Lately, on the request of Rev. Psaila and supported by the Rector, the Government conceded to Rev. Psaila to sit for the final examination and as a consequence, if he was approved, he would be able to receive the Doctorate degree (see Government’s letter for 26 November 1845). Today Rev. Psaila presented himself for the examination.”<sup>104</sup>

101. See Ibid.

102. See Ibid., 69-70.

103. See Ibid., 71-72.

104. See Ibid., 72-73.

*The candidate who sat for the examination and their results:*  
 Rev. Fr Peter Paul Psaila<sup>105</sup>, *Approved with full marks and praise*

**Course 1842-1846**  
**Year 1845-1846**

*The Special Council of the Faculty of Theology met on 27 July 1846 to examine Students of the past scholastic year 1845-1846, the second year of the academic course 1842-1846.*

**Subjects studied:**

*The Sacraments in general and in species.*<sup>106</sup>

*The candidates who sat for the examination and their results:*

Cleric Vincent Dingli<sup>107</sup> (fourth year), *Approved with full marks and praise.*

Cleric Joseph Pellegrini<sup>108</sup> (fourth year), *Approved with full marks.*

Dr Calcedonius Debono<sup>109</sup> (fourth year), *Examination postponed.*

Rev. Fr Cacedonius Agius (second year), *Approved with full marks.*

Cleric Saviour Caruana (second year), *Approved with full marks.*

Mr Louis Albanese (first year), *Approved with full marks.*

*Mr John Spiteri Agius (first year)*<sup>110</sup>, *Approved.*<sup>111</sup>

105. Rev. Prof. Peter Paul Psaila: Up to the moment of writing this article, I do not have information of his place of birth and the date of his ordination.

106. See *Ibid.*, 75-76.

107. Cleric Vincent Dingli, hailing from Valletta was ordained priest on 18 December 1848, Cf. CALLEJA, 23.

108. Cleric Joseph Pellegrini is not found in JOSEPH CALLEJA, *Ordinazzjonijiet sacerdotali 1800-2000*, Malta 2001, p.22.

109. Dr Calcedonio Debono is not found in CALLEJA, 22.

110. See *Minutes of the Special Council*, 76-78.

111. See *Ibid.*, 78-80.

**Course 1842-1846****Year 1845-1846 (continuation)**

The Special Council of Theology<sup>112</sup> met on 10 December 1846 to examine the students who, because of some legitimate cause were hindered from presenting themselves in due time for the examinations.

**Subjects studied:**

*The Sacraments*<sup>113</sup>.

The candidates who sat for the examination and their results:

**Year 1845-1846**

Dr Calcedonius Debono<sup>114</sup> (fourth year), *Approved with full marks.*

Canon Louis Albanese (second year), *Approved with full marks.*

Cleric John Spiteri Agius (second year), *Approved.*

Cleric Salvatore Spiteri (second Year)<sup>115</sup>, *Approved with full marks.*<sup>116</sup>

**Courses 1844-48 and 1846-1850****Year 1846-1847**

The Council of Theology met on 4 October 1847 to make the examinations on the subjects studied during the past year 1846-1847 which was the first year of the academic course 1846-1850 and the third year of the Academic year 1844-1848. These examinations should have been made on 29 July 1846 but have been postponed due to the indisposition of Parish Priest Fernandes.<sup>117</sup>

112. Sac.e D.r G. Vassallo ....hailing from Qormi and probably ordained on 22 December 1838. Cf. CALLEJA, 23.

113. "...e sulla materia commune a tutti e Quattro, / cioè de' Sacramenti in genere ed in l ispecie: // "Minutes of the Special Council, p.81.

114. Calcedonius Debono hailing from Valletta was ordained priest on 22 December 1849, Cf. CALLEJA, 23.

115. See *Minutes of the Special Council*, 80.

116. See *Ibid.*, 83-84.

117. See *Ibid.*, 83-84.

**Subjects studied:**

Religion, Theological loci, Human acts, Conscience, Laws.<sup>118</sup>

The candidates who sat for the examination and their results:

Fr Calcedonius Agius (third year), *Approved with full marks.*

Can. Louis Albanese (third year), *Approved with full marks.*

Cleric Salvatore Caruana (third year), *Approved with full marks and praise.*

Cleric John Spiteri Agius (third year), *Approved.*

Fr Salvatore Spiteri (third year), *Approved with full marks.*

Student Anthony Formosa (first year) sent a note to say that he will not present himself today for the examination.

Cleric Joseph Pellicano (first year)<sup>119</sup>, *Approved with full marks.*<sup>120</sup>

**Courses 1844-48 and 1846-1850****Year 1847-1848**

The Special Council of Theology met on 27 July 1848 to hold the examinations of the Students of Theology on the subjects studied in the last scholastic year 1847-1848, the second year of the Academic Course 1846-1850 and the fourth year of the course 1844-1848.<sup>121</sup>

**Subjects studied:**

*De Deo uno, trino, et creatore; de Angelis, de Mundo ....., de Peccatis, de Virtutibus theologicis et morabilibus; de Justitia et jure.*<sup>122</sup>

The candidates who sat for the examination and their results:

Fr Calcedonius Agius<sup>123</sup> (fourth year), *Approved with full marks and praise.*

Can. Dec. Louis Albanese<sup>124</sup> (fourth year), *Approved with full marks.*

118. "Materie del presente esame: della Religione, de'luoghi teologici; degli / atti umani, della Coscienza, e delle leggi. l'"*Ibid.*, 84.

119. See *Ibid.*

120. See *Ibid.*, pp.86-87.

121. See *Ibid.*, p.87.

122. *Ibid.*, 87-88.

123. Calcedonio Agius hailing from Birkirkara was ordained priest on 20 December 1845, Cf. CALLEJA, 21.

124. Luigi Albanese hailing from Cospicua was ordained priest on 20 December 1851, Cf. CALLEJA, 23.

*Cleric Salvatore Caruana*<sup>125</sup> (fourth year), *Approved with full marks praise.*

*Cleric John Spiteri Agius*<sup>126</sup> (fourth year), *Disapproved.*<sup>127</sup>

*Dr Salvatore Spiteri*<sup>128</sup> (fourth year), *Approved with full marks.*<sup>129</sup>

*Cleric Joseph Pellicano* (second year)<sup>130</sup> *Approved with full marks.*<sup>131</sup>

### **Course 1846-1850**

#### **Year 1848-1849**

*The Special Council of Theology met on 27 July 1849 to hold the examination of the Students.*

#### **Subjects studied:**

*de Incarnatione, de Gratia Christi, de Altera vita hominis, de Contractibus in genere,*

*de Contractibus in specie, et de Religione*<sup>132</sup>

The candidates who sat for the examination and their results:

*Cleric Joseph Pellicano* (third year), *Approved with full marks.*

*Cleric John Spiteri Agius* who presented himself for the second time, this being his fourth scholastic year 1847-1848, *Approved with full marks.*<sup>133</sup>

125. Salvatore Caruana hailing from Gozo was ordained priest on 20 December 1845, Cf. CALLEJA, 22.

126. John Spiteri Agius is not found in CALLEJA, *Ordinazzjonijiet Sacerdotali*.

127. John Spiteri was *Approved with full marks* in the examination session of 27 July 1849: see footnote 116.

128. Salvatore Spiteri hailing from Senglea was ordained priest on 6 June 1846, Cf. CALLEJA, 22.

129. See *Minutes of the Special Council*, 89-90.

130. See *Ibid.*, 88-89.

131. See *Ibid.*, 91.

132. See *Ibid.*, 91-93.

133. See *Ibid.*, 94-96.

### Appendix 1

#### *The performance of the Faculties of Philosophy and Arts, Medicine, Law and Theology*

In the school of Philosophy and Arts, in Logic many lectures were imparted on the first notions of Metaphysics and in particular those which were of great importance for the students of this course, in order that they would be able to proceed to the lectures on Logic only, and to the analysis of the terms of the Syllogism. These subjects were dealt with in the last lectures and for which the Special Council of the Faculty agreed to propose as a textbook *Elementi di Filosofia* of Baron Galuppi. It must be remarked that the Professor of this branch during the course of such lessons had to absent himself between 19 of April and 19 June because of his illness, with due permission. The Professor of Theology D. Psaila substituted him in the delivery of the lectures.<sup>134</sup>

The lectures in Mathematics began at the opening of the school. It was supposed that the young people had already learnt the first notions of Plain and Solid Geometry as well as the principles of Algebra and therefore they could proceed to higher studies of Mathematics. The textbook used by the Professor was that of Franco..... It must be remarked that at the same time this Professor besides teaching Mathematics, had to lecture on experimental Physics for the young people of the past course who were on the way to professional studies leading to Medicine, but they could not end their studies of Physics because of the decease of Professor Dr Ciccognani Cappelli.

At the beginning of the academic course, the Professor of Latin and Italian literature, while giving his lectures, spent a lot of time to cover the history of both literatures in general and also in their different branches and only in the lectures of the last two months did he touch on the subjects proper. The Council recommended to the Professor to continue these lectures during all the current year of 1839. The textbook was that of Cardella.<sup>135</sup>

The Council of Philosophy, referring to article 158 of the Statute, in order to help

134. See *Ibid.*, 6.

135. See *Ibid.*, 7.



the students who were admitted to follow the branches of Philosophy in preparation for the study of Law, recommended to the Professor of Political Economy and Statistics to undertake a course of analogous lectures which would deal with subjects regarding the elements of science, commerce and taxes. The Professor used the book *Corso di Economia Politica* by Dac... 'Course into Political Economy' (my translation) as a textbook. However, only a small number of young people attended this school and from thirty three who attended in the beginning of the course, at the end, the number went down, one day twelve and the next day fifteen.

In the Faculty of Medicine, Professors Charles Galland, Stefano Zerafa and Gio. G. Aquilina following the subjects indicated by the Statute delivered their lectures respectively in Anatomy, in Chemistry and in Natural History and Botany. The texts used for the lectures were the following: the book of Cloquet for Anatomy, Des... for Chemistry, and Lavi for Botany and Blumencach for Natural History. The students of Medicine visited the Medical and Surgical clinics of the Civil Hospital, but only as observers.<sup>136</sup>

The Professors of the Faculty of Law, following the indications of the Statute and the prescriptions of the Special Council of their Faculty were engaged in teaching their students in the following way: Professor Sigismondo Dimech who had the responsibility for Civil Law imparted a course of lectures whereby it was shown how a group of Laws in general could be formed by indicating the first notions of Law and the many subdivisions deriving their origin from the Roman Laws. Professor D. Caruana Dingli, after giving a brief and general vision of Canon Law<sup>137</sup>, its origin and its contents, spent some time on the matters of benefices and marriage with special reference to their current use in Malta, distinguishing between the old and new canonical discipline. In the last lessons he explained the *Diritto delle genti* and the *Diritto pubblico*. The text books chosen for these subjects were the work of L'Einuccio for Civil Institutions, that of Devoti for *Diritto Canonico*, and that of Lapredi for *Diritto pubblico* and *delle genti*.

In the school of Theology, the Professors, in order to open the way to a complete education for their students, engaged in dealing with the fundamental subjects which constitute the essential elements of the study of Theology.

136. See *Ibid.*, 8.

137. See *Ibid.* 8-9.

The Professor of Dogma, Rev. Dr Peter Paul Psaila, lectured on the sources of Theology (*luoghi teologici*), the existence of God, and Religion. The Professor of Moral Theology or Ethics, Rev. Dr Salvatore Cumbo, covered the subjects of human acts, conscience, and Laws. The texts books used were *Le Istituzioni teologiche* of Gaetano De Fulgure and the book on Moral Theology written by Paul Gabriel Antoine.

## Appendix 2

### *The observations and comments of the Rector about the Academic year 1837*

In teaching their subjects, the Professors followed the prescriptions of the Statute whereby they lectured for one hour every day in the Italian language on their subject matter (*materie incidenti*) and for another half hour they put questions to their students on the past lessons to check about their studies.<sup>138</sup>

The attendance of the young people at the University was regular as the Professors themselves reported in the sitting of the General Council of 17 April of the same year. The same thing cannot be said about the attendance of the lectures in Physics and Mathematics because only a very limited number of students attended the lectures of these subjects and an even smaller number attended the Physics lectures. Although the Rector thought that by his warnings he might remedy the situation, he did not succeed to better the situation. Only three or four students attended these lessons.

The Rector observed that there was a very unfortunate fact which was contributing to render the instruction of the students inefficient, namely that the students lacked the necessary books which should help them study their subjects thoroughly. Notwithstanding his reported warnings, the matter did not improve and the reason for this had yet to be discovered.

The annual examinations which the young students had to undergo to get their decree (*grado*), although according to article 15 of the Basic Statute they should have been done at the end of the scholastic year that ended in the month of June, the Rector proposed to the General Council that they should be postponed for a limited

138. See *Ibid.* 10.

time preceding the next scholastic year especially in this first year because of the new organization and also because the period between January and the end of June was not long enough for the young people to be prepared for the examinations.<sup>139</sup>

Thirty students from all the three Faculties of Theology, Law and Medicine who at the end of the year finished their professional studies, asked to receive their decrees. After making sure that they were right in making their request, the Rector asked them to submit themselves to the formal examinations set by the Special Councils. On 19 July the Doctoral Decree was conferred on 24 of the young men:

In Theology: 5  
In Law: 12  
In Medicine: 7

Three students from the Faculty of Law and three from the Faculty of Medicine had not the satisfaction which they desired.

In the first scholastic period running, the General Council met twice for an ordinary meeting, on 12 April and on 1 July, and another two times for an extraordinary meeting when the Rector thought it best to call the Council to discuss the institution of a good regulation about the direction of studies at the Lyceum and from which studies it was hopeful that the students would be prepared for their scientific studies at the University, and these same studies would benefit not only those students who would later on take on Science subjects but students too who would study Commerce and Arts. The Special Councils also made their particular meetings in order to check on the performance of studies in their respective Faculties.

The Rector, after reporting on the proceedings of the University in the first period of the first academic course, felt duty bound to add his observations on the same subject.<sup>140</sup> In his first observations the Rector said that to have a good University, the subjects studied in Philosophy and Arts are to be seen as the essential basis of for any professional study that would be undertaken later on by the student body, and therefore a number of lectures should be allowed for these subjects. Some of these subjects could be considered that they formed a constitutive part of the

139. See *Ibid.*, 11.

Philosophical studies while others could be seen as an adorning counterpart. Among the first, such subjects there were Logic, Theology, Mathematics and general and special Physics. Without such a preparatory study of these subjects, any young man would try in vain to carry on his studies in Theology, Law and Medicine. These subjects were prescribed by the Regulations of all universities.<sup>141</sup>

The adorning subjects which could complete the studies and form the beautiful part of a scientific education are: Greek, Latin, Italian and English literature, History, Eloquence and any other study that can be classified as literature. These subjects are not the constituents of Philosophical studies in the University regulations of the most renowned institutions or at least they are not prescribed as part of the obligatory course of Philosophical studies.

But in the Statute which was formed as a regulation in this University, the above-mentioned subjects, that is, Latin, Italian, English Literature, Economics and Politics, are prescribed in the category of obligatory subjects. Although the Rector was very much sure of the usefulness of the Literature studies in Malta, and he himself had prescribed them to the students of the University, he observed that many times the students of the Philosophy class were forced to listen at least to four lectures a day which amounted to six hours presence in the school. It was also observed that young people got tired of listening to all these lectures and, returning home in this situation, it was impossible for them to do further studies in the subjects which form the essential matter of the Philosophical subjects and those which adorn the subject of Philosophy.<sup>142</sup>

### Appendix 3

*Institutiones Theologicae / ad usum / Studiosae Juventutis / Auctore / CAJETANO DE FULGURE / Canonico Aversanae Cathedralis Ecclesiae / Olim in Aversano Clericorum / Seminario Theolicae*

*Praeceptore / Editio Absolutissima / Tomus I. / Continens Tractatus / De veritate religionis Christianae – / De Locis Theologicis – De Deo Uno – /*

140. See *Ibid.*, 13.

141. See *Ibid.*, 14.

142. See *Ibid.*, 15.

Accedit SS. Pontificum, Concilium generalium, / Patrum, et Haereticorum  
brevis historia / Neapoli / Ex Typographia Simoniana, / Dommatica I 239 / 1-6,  
Bibliotheca Collegii Internationalis S. Alberti, Roma.

*Theologia / Moralis Universa / Compectens / Omnia Morum Praecepta, /  
Principia et Decisionis Omnium Conscientiae Casuum / Suis Quaeque Momentis  
Stabilita / Ad usum Parochorum & Confessariorum / Auctore R.P. PAULO-GABRIELE  
ANTOINE / Societatis Jesu Presbytero, S. Theologiae*

Doctore Ex-professore / Editio Nova / Auctior et emendator ab ipso Auctore  
/ Tomus I. Continens Tractatus de Conscientia, / de Legibus, de Peccatis, de  
Virtutibus Theologicis / Parisiis Apud Marcum Bordelet, Via San Jaco- / Baeâ,  
è regione collegi Ludovici Magni, / Ad insigne S. Ignatii / M DCC XL / Cum  
Approbatione et Privilegio / Morale I 32 / 1-4, Bibliotheca Collegii Internationalis  
S. Alberti, Roma.

