



The Academy

Course: "Christian Leadership in Public Office"

8-week online course for political and church leaders

Instructor:

Dr. Christiaan Alting von Geusau holds law degrees from the University of Leiden (Netherlands) and the University of Heidelberg (Germany) whilst also having studied law, philosophy and theology courses at Franciscan University of Steubenville, the University of Notre Dame (USA) and at the Ecole Saint-Jean in Saint Jodard (France). He obtained with distinction his doctorate in philosophy of law from the University of Vienna (Austria). He practiced law at international law firms Houthoff and AKD in Amsterdam and Brussels from 1997 until 2004 where he advised governments, public institutions and multinational firms on issues of law and conflict resolution. He currently serves as Rector of *ITI Catholic University* near Vienna, Austria where he is also a Professor for Philosophy of Law and Education. Throughout his professional career he has participated in and himself taught leadership seminars and courses internationally whilst also receiving certified training in diplomatic negotiation and mediation. Von Geusau leads the *International Catholic Legislators Network (ICLN)*, which he founded in 2010 to provide political and church leaders with (faith) formation, fellowship and networking opportunities. He works extensively with (senior) political and church leaders throughout the world, helping them realize their mission with integrity. You may access some of his lectures, interviews and presentations [here](#).

Course description:

This course for (aspiring) legislators and others in public office - including senior church leaders – seeks to provide timeless insights and enduring wisdom needed to be a Christ-like leader in the execution of one's daily duties and responsibilities, always aiming at justice and the advancement of the common good. Christian leadership for those holding high office is above all **a fundamental way of life, consistently lived and carefully guarded**, bringing lasting unity to the spheres of faith, family and public duty, unapologetically desiring and working every day to root all in a Christ-centered life of faithfulness, courage and sacrifice for those we are called to serve and protect. As Christians in leadership positions we have to *ourselves be the change* we wish you to see in our society. Throughout history, great Christian men and women of deep faith and formidable character have struggled with this challenge to uphold the principles rooted in their consciences with the demands of public office. They provide a powerful inspiration to build a new generation of equally great political and church leaders that seek to know better every day **what it means to be human** and how to act accordingly. Such *inspiring* Christian leadership is a gift the world is in great need of at this time of ongoing crisis, confusion and uncertainty.

Course structure:

Eight weekly sessions of 50 minutes each during July and August 2020, taught in English. **The course will be conducted exclusively online** through real time video and recording, allowing participants to either attend live or by watching the recording at a later time. The course includes Q&A through the video and chat function during the live course session or by submitting written questions through e-mail to the instructor. *For those wishing to further deepen their leadership mission, we also offer individual coaching programs for political and church leaders; please contact the instructor for information.*

Course outline:

Session 1: Who am I, what is my calling?

Session 2: The unity of a life in Christ

Session 3: The meaning of virtue

Session 4: Conscience, duty and the law

Session 5: Case study: King Solomon and King David

Session 6: Case study: Sir Thomas More and Bishop John Fisher

Session 7: Case study: Albert Luthuli (Mvumbi) and Franz Jägerstätter

Session 8: Case study: Dag Hammarskjöld and Robert Schumann

Course outcomes:

1. Having identified the core principles of Christian leadership in public office
2. Personally adopting, then step-by-step applying these principles to one's daily life
3. Being able and willing to inspire and lead others to do the same

Course work:

- Preparatory readings as assigned by the instructor (see below)
- In-class seminar-style discussion
- Concluding essay writing a "Mission Statement"

Course texts:

Holy Scripture: excerpts from the Old and New Testaments; **Alexander Havard:** Virtuous Leadership; **Louis DeWohl:** The Last Crusader – Don Juan of Austria; **Simon Sinek:** Ask Why First; **Selected readings:** **Dietrich Bonhoeffer:** the Cost of Discipleship, **Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis** and others.

Practical details:

The course is limited to 20 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Cost: €150,- (advance payment, non-refundable). Please register by sending an e-mail with your contact details and brief biography to: office@icln.at. You will then receive a confirmation e-mail with international transfer details (wire transfer and PayPal). Once payment has been received, you will receive further information as to the course dates and times, accessing the video platform and recordings, as well as an additional reading packet in pdf format. At the end of the course and having completed all 8 sessions and the concluding essay, an official ICLN Academy certificate with full course details will be handed out.