

OVERVIEW OF THE ANNUAL COURSE

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Course! As we stand at the threshold of the Centenary, this year's theme—**Creating Connections, the Key to Living Out the Apostolic Mission**—invites us to reflect deeply on how our identity and mission as faithful of Opus Dei take shape in the ordinary moments of daily life.

This is an opportunity to renew our sense of purpose, to strengthen the bonds that unite us, and to discover new ways of bringing the spirit of the Work into every encounter. May this be a space of dialogue, inspiration, and shared growth as we journey together toward the Centenary.

Background and Context

In support of the past **Strategic Plan 2022–2025**, the Annual Courses have progressively deepened our understanding of identity and mission:

- **2022–2023: My Identity, and its unfolding in Freedom, Friendship, and Fidelity**
- **2023–2024: My Identity and Mission, Belonging to a Family**
- **2025: Living joyfully our identity and mission through the 4C of *Casa, Corazón célibe, Crecimiento, y Cercanía***

Now, in **2026**, we focus on **living out** this identity and mission—translating our ideals into daily action. The emphasis is on **creating connections** as a means of embodying our apostolic mission in the world.

As faithful of Opus Dei, we are called to be **bridges of dialogue**—in our Centers, workplaces, families, and social circles. Through genuine listening, thoughtful presence, and joyful faith, we can foster deeper human connections that transform ordinary encounters into opportunities for grace.

This year's seminar also draws from the **Regional Assembly's recommendations**, particularly the call to **rethink poverty** and to cultivate **the art of dialogue**. These themes will guide our reflections and workshops, helping us strengthen unity and apostolic vitality across generations and vocations.

Objectives

By the end of the Course, participants will:

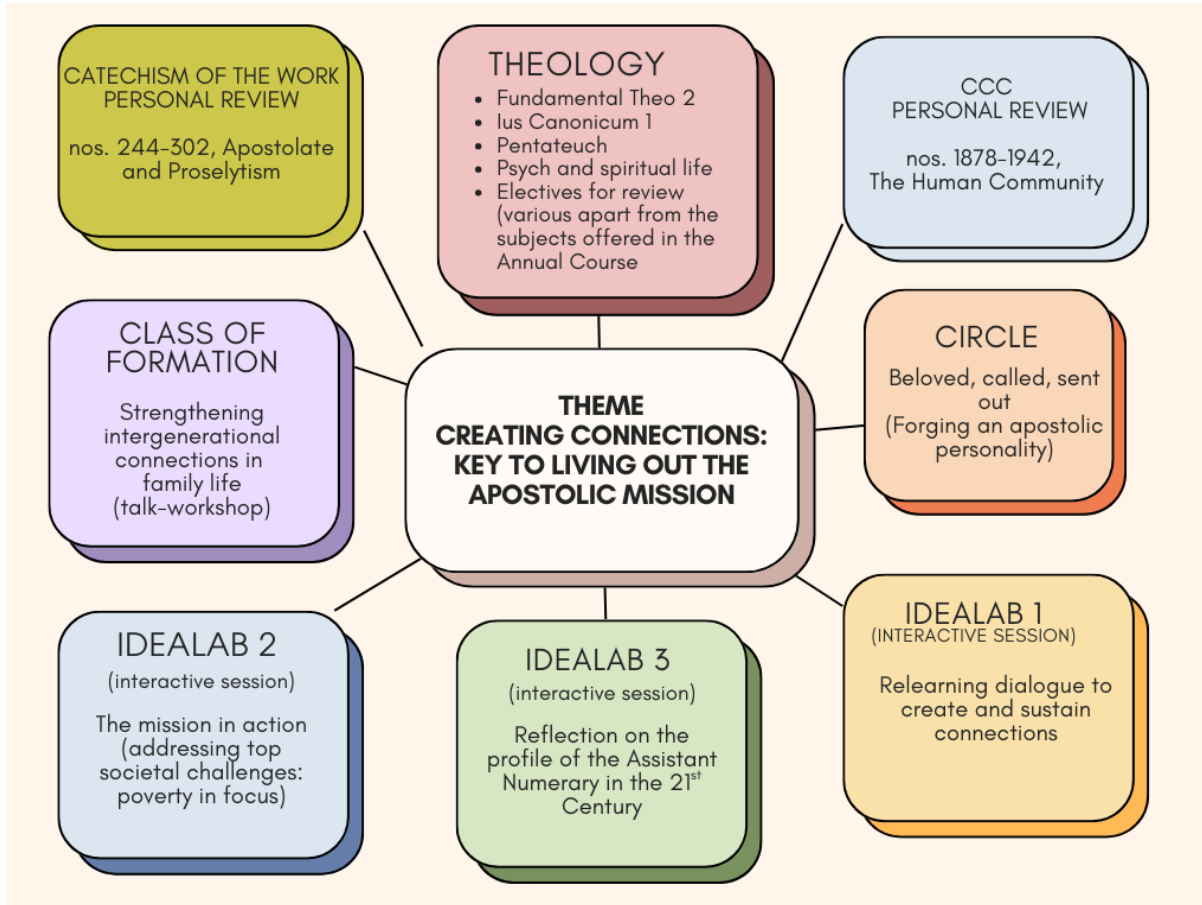
- Deepen their understanding of how to live out their identity and mission in daily life.
- Reflect on the meaning of “creating connections” as a path to apostolic fruitfulness.
- Engage in dialogue and collaborative learning through the **Idealab** sessions.
- Explore practical ways to rethink poverty and foster authentic dialogue in their environments.
- Contribute to defining the evolving identity and role of the Assistant Numerary in the 21st century.

Format

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We also made use of the results from the small group discussions held with different types of faithful and feedback from the Annual courses: to get more engagement on the part of the participants. Thus we conceptualized the *Idealab*, literally, a laboratory of ideas which consists of a short talk on the topic and a workshop after.

Content



As we embark on this year's Annual Course, let us remember that our mission begins in the simplicity of daily life and in the contact of professional work. Every task, every conversation, every act of service, every gesture of understanding can become a bridge that leads others closer to God.

May this Course inspire us to live our vocation with renewed joy, creativity, and unity—strengthening the bonds that make us one family in the Work. Together, let us continue building a culture of connection and dialogue as we journey toward the Centenary