The Association des Amis de Pierre Teilhard de Chardin,  
in partnership with Rheims Bishopric

From Friday 13 (6.30 pm) to Sunday 15 October 2017  
with a prologue on Friday 13th afternoon and an extension on Monday 16th October

100th anniversary of the Great War  
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin International Conference

« Facing the war – Looking beyond »  
From the origins of his vision to the present-day upheavals of globalization

THE SUBJECT

His “Regenerating Thought” in the making
Enlisted as a stretcher-bearer in the Great War, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin has suffered the violence and inhumanity of the conflicts between nations, but he also lived the reality on the battlefield as a “baptism in reality”. Paradoxically, it is precisely this disruptive chaos which is at the root of his prospective and prophetic vision of Evolution. In the Chapel of Cerny en Laonnois a commemorative tablet was erected in October 2007:

« SUR CETTE TERRE DU CHEMIN DES DAMES, en 1917  
S’EST CONSTRUIE SA PENSEE SUR L’AVENIR DE L’HUMANITE »  
(On this soil of Chemin des Dames, in 1917, his views on the future of mankind were built)

From destruction to rebirth: in this chaotic process Teilhard de Chardin detected a regenerative principle; amid the current disruptions, despite their frightening and worrying aspects, he was able to see the pains of a world being born.

The Meaning of the Act of Remembrance being proposed
Our coming together in Rheims in 2017, 100 years later, to pay tribute to the great Jesuit is an important act of remembrance. Today, Rheims, together with Verdun, is a symbol of the reconciliation between France and Germany accomplished on the occasion of the joint visit of Chancellor ADENAUER and General DE GAULLE on July 8th 1962, the very next year the Elysée Treaty (a treaty of friendship between France and West Germany) was signed by Chancellor Adenauer and General de Gaulle.

PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

Conflict and Cooperation
Within the groping advances of Evolution, there are continual questions raised by the fact of change, torn as we are between the forces of creative union and those of division: on the one hand, we see men’s difficulty in building their future with the energy of love (the basic cosmic energy for Teilhard), on the other we see a protectionist tendency - closing in on oneself - with the return of nationalism, illustrating a fear of change and a lack of trust. We are questioned, in the 21st century, by the planetary need to find new forms of balance:

- How do the origins of World War I influence the building of Europe?
- Today, where can we see Teilhard’s concept of the Noosphere taking shape, within and beyond the digital revolution?
- What factors of convergence can we discern today in spiritual, scientific, political, economical, social and cultural institutions?
- How does the (almost) universally accepted message of “Laudato Si” bring new immediacy to Teilhard’s prophetic vision?
PROGRAMME as of 28 April 2017

- **Prologue of Friday 13 October from 2 to 6.30 pm**: Following Teilhard’s steps on Chemin des Dames – By bus from Rheims, limited to 46 people.
  - Cave of the Dragoon – Chemin des Dames Museum
  - Memorial-Chapel of Cerny en Laonnois
  - La Malmaison, Monument in remembrance of the 38th Infantry Division
  - Paissy, “Teilhard de Chardin” shelter
  - Vauclair Abbey, tomb of Fr René Courtois, s.j.

- **Friday 13 October from 6.30 to 9.30 pm → Introduction of the Conference**

  6.30 – 6.45: Opening of the Conference by Bishop Bruno FEILLET (Auxiliary Bishop of Rheims) or Bishop JORDAN (?)


  Dinner at Maison Saint-Sixte or free dinner (?)

- **Saturday 14 October – 9.00 to 12.30 am → Facing the War**

  8.30 – 9.00: Welcome

  **Moderator: Hilaire GIRO**

  9.00 – 9.45: *The Great War, a turning point for religions* – Jean-François BOULANGER (Professor for Contemporary History in Rheims)

  9.45 – 10.30: *The war for Teilhard “A baptism in reality”, the shock of war for Teilhard and its importance for his view about evolution* – Gérard DONNADIEU

  10.30 – 11.00:Pause and visit of exhibitions and stands

  11.00 – 11.45: *From Teilhard in the Flanders to present day conflicts* – Erwin VILAIN (Chaplain in the Belgian army and Eurocorps)

  11.45 – 12.30: *The publication of Teilhard’s letters to his cousin Marguerite “The Making of a Mind”* – Mercè PRATS (Title to be confirmed)

  12.30 – 2.00: Buffet lunch at Maison Saint-Sixte

- **Saturday 14 October – 2.00 to 7.00 pm**: → *The War and beyond!*

  **Moderator: Eric de COLOMBY**

  2.00 – 2.45: *How to look at the History we have learnt, does the war bring mankind some progress?* – General Eirick IRASTORZA (former Head of French Land Army, Head of the Task Force for the 100th Anniversary of the Great War)

  2.45 – 3.30: *time kept for Rheims Bishopric* – to be examined with Fr Thierry BETTLER

  3.30 - 4.00: Pause and visit of exhibitions and stands
4.00 – 4.45: The ethical resistance in the face of evil: Dietrich Bonhoeffer – Fr Jean-François PETIT (Philosophy Professor at Institut Catholique de Paris)

4.45 – 5.30: Conversation between the lecturers of the afternoon, facilitated by Georges ORDONNAUD

5.30 – 6.15: From the Conflict of the ‘Absolute One’ against ‘the Many’ to the Communion of the Interconnected ‘One and the Many’: A panentheistic revision of the initial insights of Teilhard’s essays during the Great War - Valerian MENDONCA s.j. (India)

6.15 – 6.30: The liberal economical globalization in the light of Teilhard’s noosphere – Gian Luigi NICOLA (Italy)

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm: Buffet Dinner at Maison Saint-Sixte

• Saturday night 9.00 pm – 10.00 pm: musical show → Music and Evolution to be examined with Mercè Prats

• Sunday 15 October – 8.30 to 12.30 am: → Building the Earth

8.30: Welcome

Moderator: Georges ORDONNAUD

8.45 – 9.30: The emerging of a new history of European awareness after 1918 – Antoine ARJAKOVSKI (History Professor – Collège des Bernardins)

9.30 – 10.15: Teilhard’s Evolutionary Front – Kathleen Duffy SSJ, PhD (USA)

10.15 – 10.45: Pause and visit of exhibitions and stands

10.45 – 11.30: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin’s path from the “road of fire” of the First World War to being “a pilgrim of the future” in a still unfinished universe – Ursula KING FRSA (Great-Britain)

11.30 – 12.15: Noosfera: génesis y actualidad – Guillermo AGUDELO (Mexico)

12.15 – 2.00: Buffet lunch at Maison Saint-Sixte

• Sunday 15 October – 2.00 to 4.45 pm: → Perspectives and convergence

Moderator: Jean-Joseph HENRY

2.00 - 2.45: “True peace” and “Noosphere quickening”: two of Teilhard’s metaphors – Philippe QUEAU (Assistant General Manager at UNESCO)

2.45 – 3.30: Peace among Nations, peace among religions: “Faith is a way of possessing what one hopes for” – Paula KASPARIAN (Philosopher, Chair of Artisans de Paix).

3.30 – 4.15: From the war in the trenches to cooperation in space – Jacques ARNOULD (title to be confirmed)

4.15 – 5.00: From the spirit-matter to the Omega Point – Fr Gabriel DELORT-LAVAL

5.30 – 6.30 pm: Closing Mass at Rheims Cathedral (Presidence to be discussed with Fr Thierry BETTLER)
Monday 16 October – Optional extension: with private cars, to be organized by and for interested visitors. They will be supplied with information. Proposals:

- Visit to the Italian Military Cemetery of **BLIGNY**
- **DORMANS** and the Memorial for the 2nd battle of the Marne
- **VILLEROY** and the Big Grave of Charles PEGUY.

### Possible exhibitions and stands

- Exhibition of photographs about the Great War, Teilhard’s works and poems about the Great War
- Books from the Association and presentation of its activities (*to be seen with P. Bettler and Mercè Prats*)
- Le Souvenir Français / Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge (VDK) – Documents will be available.
- Les Artisans de Paix
- Champagne Ernest REMY
- Jesuit spiritual movements for lay people in Champagne-Ardennes – CVX

### Translations

- Translation into French of the conferences given in English and Spanish (if available before 30 June)
- Translation into English and Spanish of abstracts of the conferences given in French (if available before 30 August)