

**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 13<sup>th</sup> afternoon and an extension on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 CONSTRUITE 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 38<sup>th</sup> 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 (?)**

6.45 – 7.30: Introductory lecture - *Conflict-Cooperation: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a visionary for globalization and its conflicts: socialization through compression* – **Hilaire GIRON** (Chair of the French Association)

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

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

8.30 – 9.00: Welcome

**Moderator: Hilaire GIRON**

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 Elrick IRASTORZA** (former Head of French Land Army, Head of the Task Force for the 100<sup>th</sup> 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**

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- **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)

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- **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 2<sup>nd</sup> battle of the Marne
  - **VILLEROY** and the Big Grave of Charles PEGUY.

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### **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-Ardenne – 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)