



Teilhard's Mysticism: Spiraling Into the Cosmic Christ

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In an early essay, Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin provides us with a road map into the intensely mystical environment in which he lived and moved. He describes the stages of his mystical growth in terms of five concentric circles. These circles, which could be more properly imaged as the loops of a spiral that he continually revisited throughout his life, provided him with a sacred path into an ever deepening reality, a reality that is informed as much by the science of his time as it is by his religious tradition. They plot his growth and development as he plunged ever more deeply into the heart of matter and into the heart of God, finding there the radiance of a loving, cosmic Person—the God for evolution.

Through input, prayer, song, film, contemplative activities and sharing, we follow Teilhard as he travels ever more deeply from Circle to Circle into the arms of the Cosmic Christ. Stepping with him through each of these circles, we come, gradually and logically, to see how Teilhard's mystical vision emerged, how it developed, and how we too can be drawn more and more deeply into that privileged point where the depths of our hearts and the heart of the Cosmos converge with the heart of God.

Resource Person: Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD. is Professor of Physics at Chestnut Hill College, PA. where she directs the Interdisciplinary Honors Program and the Institute for Religion and Science. She is editor of *Teilhard Studies* and serves on the Advisory Board of the American Teilhard Association and on the Board of Cosmos and Creation, Loyola University, Maryland. Kathleen's present research deals with the way Teilhard de Chardin's religious writings connect with modern science. She has published many articles and several book chapters on these topics. In 2015 Kathleen's book *"Teilhard's Mysticism: Seeing the Inner Face of Evolution"* (Orbis) won 2nd place at the Catholic Press Association in the field of Faith and Science.

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