



SECRETARIA
PRO COMMUNICATIONE

International St. Francis de Sales Days

« Media & Truth »

« That communication, in all its forms, may be
actually constructive, at the service of truth »

Pope Francis / Social Communications Day 2017

Lourdes (France) • 24-26 January 2018

with the participation of :



PROGRAMME

The programme may be subject to modifications

The truth belongs to no one. Through history, it always had diverse faces. Since antiquity many have struggled to define it... But over time, the truth has imposed itself as the horizon of any reasoned debate... Indeed, there is no possibility of progress in sciences without concern for accuracy and truth, no living democracy if its fundamentals are built on lies, no relationship which is excepted to last without such a requirement, no proclamation of faith which is possible without being reconciled with reason, no press publication which is credible without an aspiration for objectivity.

« *Facts, only facts* » are at the core of the journalistic ethic. Today, in most places, alternative truths are trying to be established in politics, economy or on a spiritual level. They are fed by relativism which is expanding all around, along with the overrating plurality of interpretation. Post-truth is constantly extending its authority and its ascendancy which makes debates increasingly complicated. Therefore, it is a critical challenge for all citizens including us, Christians, to be firmly at the service of truth.

However, it is not about a fashionable, rigid, dogmatic and apathetic truth. It is really about a truth which is all at once vibrant, debated, but always a source of meaning in order to clarify the future. It is nothing less than a long-lasting lifestyle choice.

This desire to serve the truth – under all its aspects, by philosophers, theologians, political leaders and journalists – will be the main focus of the 22nd International St. Francis de Sales Days this January in Lourdes.

Why should we miss out on such debates, right ?

François Ernenwein,

Program Coordinator of the St. Francis de Sales Days.

Jean-Marie Montel,

President of the Federation of the Catholic Media.

Wednesday 24th of January 2018

10:30am – 12am / Hotel Panorama / 11-13 rue Sainte-Marie

Welcome and Registration of participants

12pm – 1:30pm / Hotels Panorama and Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie

Lunch

1: 45pm– 2:15pm / Hemicycle

Screening of Lourdes's message presentation

2:15pm – 4pm / Departure from the Hemicycle hall / Guided tours

The Marian shrine and the major milestones of Saint Bernadette's life through the city and/or the Cité Saint-Pierre

4:15pm – 5:15pm / Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary

Mass concelebrated, feast of St. Francis de Sales
by Mgr Nicolas Brouwet, Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes

5:30pm – 8:30pm / Hemicycle

Opening of the St. Francis de Sales Days

Welcome address by Mgr Nicolas Brouwet, Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes ;
Jean-Marie Montel, President of the Federation of the Catholic Media (FMC) ;
Helen Osman, President of Signis Monde ;

Mgr Edoardo Vigano, Prefect of the Secretariat in charge of the Holy See's communication.

Presentation of the theme by François Ernenwein.

Truth's multiple facets

[**Philosophical dimension**]

Roundtable discussion moderated by Christophe Henning (Pèlerin)

There is no unanimous agreement neither about the nature of the concept, nor the way to think it through. There is no consensus as to the classic definition of truth, and even the ones who could agree on it, cannot agree upon its specification or its implications.

Overall, the question « *what does the truth mean ?* » is always open. Philosophical disagreements on the way in which we consider the truth shall not prevent us from identifying most truths.

With the participation of :

• **Jacques Dewitte**, Belgian writer, translator, and philosopher. Besides his contribution to several books and the publication of over one hundred articles in many reviews, he published with Michalon : *Le Pouvoir de la langue et la liberté de l'esprit* which explores the use of language manipulations by totalitarian systems, and he published *L'Exception européenne : Ces mérites qui nous distinguent*.

• **Marco Tarquinio**, Director of *L'Avvenire*, daily newspaper of the Italian Bishops' Conference. Italian journalist and expert in national and international politics. He started his career in 1981, at *La Voce*, the weekly Catholic newspaper of Umbria, his native region. After that, he wrote for *Corriere dell'Umbria*, held a political column for *La Gazzetta* and then became *Il Tempo's* Politics Editor in chief. In 1994, he joined *L'Avvenire*, first in Milan then in Rome. He became its Director in 2009.

• **Vincent Morch**, philosopher. After being a teacher in Africa, he is today working in publishing (*Mame*) and published with *Salvator : Petit éloge de la vérité – Manifeste pour un humanisme chrétien*.

• **Laurence Devillairs**, Doctor of philosophy, teacher at the Sèvres Center and at the Catholic Institute of Paris. Her works concentrate on the classic age and Cartesianism. She published with *Vrin : Descartes et la connaissance de Dieu*.

• **Pr Dr Karten Lehmkuhler**, Theology Professor at the Protestant Faculty of Theology at Strasbourg. He is also a researcher at the *Doctoral School of Theology and Religious Sciences* as well as the *Sociology of Religions and Social Ethics Center* (comparative theology and ethics of speech).

Exchange between the speakers and with the public.

from 8:45pm / Hotels Panorama and Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie

Convivial dinner-buffet

Thursday 25th of January

7:45am – 8:45am / Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary

Mass concelebrated

9am – 10:30am / Hemicycle

The splendour of truth

[Theological dimension]

Roundtable discussion moderated by **Philippine de Saint-Pierre (KTO)**

Holding firmly to the accuracy and discourse of truth in these « deconstructive », « postmodern » times (many other adjectives could be used to qualify our times) is the best testimony Christianity can express.

With the participation of :

• **Natasa Govekar**, Director of the pastoral theological Department of the Office in charge of the Holy See's communication. She was born in Slovenia and studied theology in Ljubljana. She holds a PhD at the Pontifical Gregorian University with a thesis on « *the transmission and communication of faith through images* ». After a time spent at the Centro Aletti, a study and research organization created by John Paul II in 1993 for bridging East and West churches, she was appointed to her current position by Pope Francis.

• **D. Jose Gabriel Vera**, Director of the Office for media and communication for the bishops' conference in Spain since 2015. He has published with *Eunsa : Jean-Paul II, tout le monde t'aime* in 2012.

• **Henri-Jérôme Gagey**, Professor at the Theologicum, faculty of theology and religious sciences of the Paris Catholic institute, where he was Dean. He was also Vicar General of the Creteil Diocese. He published with *Salvator : Les ressources de la foi*.

• **Grégory Woimbée**, Priest of the Perpignan diocese, Doctor in history and theology. He has a degree in canonical law and teaches fundamental theology at the Catholic Institute of Toulouse, where he is the Vice Rector. He published with *Artège Editions : Leçons sur le Christ. Introduction à la christologie*. He writes also regularly for *La Vie*.

• **Véronique Margron**, Professor of moral theology at the West Catholic University (Angers), Provincial superior Dominican sisters of the presentation since 2013. She published with *Bayard Culture* : *Quand la Bible raconte nos histoires d'amour*.

Exchange between the speakers and with the public.

10:30am – 11am / Hemicycle Hall

Coffee break

11am – 12:30pm / Hemicycle

The uses of truth

[**Political and economic dimension**]

Roundtable discussion moderated by Antoine-Marie Izoard (*Famille chrétienne*)

Politics and economy have their own language, far removed from common everyday life. Their focuses are as much on perceptions, appearances and feelings than on facts, numbers and rational arguments. How do we go from the subjective register of perception to the objective register of facts and at what cost ?

With the participation of :

• **Helen Osman**, American expert in communication. She was elected President of *Signis* (World Catholic Association of Communicators) the 22th of June 2017. Helen Osman is recognized worldwide for her work as a writer and journalist. She has held various leadership positions in the Catholic communication field in the US. She was Communications Director for the Diocese of Austin (Texas) for over twenty years, after which she was Chief Communications Officer of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for eight years.

• **Jérôme Fourquet**, political scientist, director of the « Opinion and business strategies » department at the polling organization *Ifop*. He published with the *Editions de l'Aube* : *Accueil ou submersion, regards européens sur la crise des migrants*.

• **Amélie de Montchalín**, economist with a degree in history and applied economy and a master in public administration. She is deputy of *La République en Marche* in the sixth electoral district of Essone.

• **Jérôme Chapuis**, co-editor in chief of the Political news desk of the *Grand Jury RTL – Le Figaro – LCI* from 2012 to 2015. Editor in chief at *RTL* and anchor from 6am to 7am.

Exchange between the speakers and with the public.

12:45pm – 2:30pm / Hotels Panorama and Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie

Lunch

3pm – 4:30pm / Hemicycle and surrounding rooms

Workshops

Each workshop will be led by an external speaker and moderated by a facilitator

The workshops we offer will allow all of the participants to look deeper into the topic according to each one's expectations and interests. The groups will be smaller than in the plenary meetings and should enable the participants to interact more closely with one another, share concrete examples and gain a better understanding of the topics. The same workshops will be offered twice in the afternoon. Therefore, everyone will be able to choose on site – subscription boards will be made available in the Hemicycle hall – which two topics they wish to develop.

Workshop examples (topic and content to be confirmed) :

- How to fight against a hysterical manner of presenting information?
- How can we dismantle the way institutions and communication services communicate through formatted story-telling?
- How can we be educated in our use of media?
- Can the truth actually reach a large audience?
- Image and truth

4:30pm – 5pm / Hemicycle hall

Coffee break

5pm – 6:30pm / Hemicycle and surrounding rooms

Workshops

[Same programme as previously]

7pm – 8pm / Hotels Panorama and Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie

Apéritif cocktail

« *Father Jacques Hamel* » Prize award ceremony
by the Federation of the Catholic Media

8pm – 10:15pm / Hotels Panorama and Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie

What kind of truth do we want ?

[Dinner/debate with Jean-Marc Ferry, philosopher]

Moderated by Jean-Pierre Denis (*La Vie*)

The guest of honor of the event will offer an opening on what the contribution of the Christian press can be in this quest for truth. Which impulse(s) or constraint(s) can it lead to ?

Jean-Marc Ferry was Professor of Political Sciences at the Free University in Brussels. He is the Chair of European Philosophy at the University of Nantes. He is a member of the *Foundation Jean Monnet*, the *Spinelli Group of Europe*, and the *European Observatory for Academic Policy*, and has published over thirty books. *La Bruyère* prize winner awarded by the *French Academy* in 1995 for all his works, he has also been honored twice by the *Institute of France*.

Friday 26th of January

7:30am – 9:00am / Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary

Mass

celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin,
Vatican's secretary of State

9:15am – 10:45am / Hemicycle

Truth and objectivity

[Journalistic dimension]

Roundtable moderated by Martin Féron (RCF)

Information ethics refers to a value which is nonexclusive but prevailing : that is the truth. This value clearly guides the code of journalistic ethics : « *seeking for the truth* », « *respecting the truth* »... It conditions journalistic objectivity which is a recurrent topic among professional and the public.

With the participation of :

- **Rev. Dr Joseph Borg**, Director of RTK, Catholic radio of Malta. Holding a Master Degree in Theology from the University of Malta, he has also completed graduate studies in communications at Concordia University in Montreal (Canada). He is one of the promoters of the study of media education in Church schools. Head of the Press Office of the Archdiocese, he is also the founder of RTK radio and the newspaper *Il-Gens*. He is also known for taking action in the fight against corruption among the elite, especially after the murder of the whistleblower, Daphne Caruana Galizia, who had denounced the abuses of the Prime Minister, his family and some member of his staff.

- **Jean-Claude Guillebaud**, essayist, journalist and reporter. Promoted columnist for the *Nouvel Observateur* in 2010, he also writes a column about society and political French life in the weekly magazine *La Vie*. He has a degree in law and is a graduate in criminal sciences. He published many books such as : *La vie vivante* (Les Arènes, 2011) ; *Le goût de l'avenir* (Seuil, 2011) ; *Une autre vie est possible* (L'Iconoclaste, 2012) ; *La foi qui reste* (L'Iconoclaste, 2017).

- **Mariette Darrigrand**, specialist in semiology, director of the firm specialised in analyses of the media rhetoric : *Des Faits et Signes*. Blogger and commentator (*France Culture, Le secret des sources*), she regularly intervenes in the media. She also gives classes at Paris 13 on the topic of books semiology. She published : *Comment les médias nous parlent (mal) ?*

- **Cyril Lemieux**, specialist in sociology, Director of study at the School of High study in Social Sciences (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, EHESS). He is greatly interested in journalism and the digital information age, and a large part of his work is focused on media and public space sociology. Columnist for *Le Monde, France Culture, Libération* and *Alternatives économiques*, he published, among others things : *La subjectivité journalistique*, in 2010.

Exchange between the speakers and with the public.

10:45am – 11:15am / Hemicycle hall

Coffee break

11:15am – 12:30pm / Hemicycle

The international situation : the stakes, issues and perspectives of the Catholic press in the world

Exchange and debate with the public.

12:45pm – 14:30pm / Hotels Panorama and Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie

Lunch

15pm – 16:30pm / Hemicycle

Overview of the two previous days' workshops

Final exhortation

by His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican's secretary of State

Conclusion

by Jean-Marie Montel, President of the Federation of the Catholic Media

All the plenary meetings will be translated simultaneously