



The 23rd International Days of St. Francis de Sales

« Journalism and convictions »

Lourdes (France) • January 30th – February 1st 2019

with the participation of :



DRAFT-PROGRAMME

dated 2019, January 15th (to be confirmed)

« JOURNALISM AND CONVICTIONS »

Tensions are running high in our countries at present, with, on the one hand, an absolutization of convictions in the political and religious spheres (still a marginal phenomenon) and, on the other, a prevailing state of amorphous and worrying fluidity. Both of these trends are dead-ends from which we must escape if we are to avert disaster.

The challenge is to move from a situation in which religion is viewed with contempt (or its role in society denied) to one in which it is considered a resource capable of making a positive contribution to humanity. It is a matter of meaning. In a secularized society, human beings' lives are no longer defined by the big narratives that used to provide them with anthropological moorings.

This debate is troubling societies and weighs heavily on editorial lines and media strategies. Should we promote consensus, or enrich the debate ?

François Ernenwein,
Programme Coordinator.

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

Wednesday 30th of January 2019

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. / Hôtel Panorama / 11-13 rue Sainte-Marie

Welcome and registration of participants • After 11:45 a.m., registration will take place at the entrance of the Conference Hall

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. / Hôtels Panorama et Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie : Lunch

1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. / Visitor Information Centre at the Sanctuary

Introductory film on the Lourdes message

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. / Guided tours starting from the Visitor Information Centre

Visit of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in the footsteps of Saint Bernadette and/or Visit of Cité Saint-Pierre, in the spirit of its founder Bishop Jean Rodhain

3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. / Basilica

Opening Mass

presided by Mgr Nicolas Brouwet, Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes

5 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. / Bishop's Conference of France Hall

Opening of the event

Video message from Jean Vanier for the participants :

« A view on Christian media, and the pressing need to articulate convictions and openness »

Opening speeches from :

Mgr Nicolas Brouwet, Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes

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

Mrs Helen Osman, President of Signis World

Mr Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication at the Vatican

An overview of the meeting by **François Ernenwein**, Programme coordinator

1. Convictions and reason

5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. / Conference Hall

[The firmness of our convictions]

Transformations of Catholicism

Unswerving devotion to one's convictions has come to be viewed with mistrust. People tend to see only the danger of extremism in thought and deed. Can convictions exist without an absolute, without transcendence? Or should we resign ourselves to living in a world in which the individual and collective points of reference guiding our existence are blurred?

With Helen Osman, president of Signis / World Catholic Association for Communication (United States), and **Father François Euvé**, director of the review *Études*.

■ 6:15 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. / Entrance of the Conference Hall : Coffee break

■ 6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. / Conference Hall

[The Church convictions]

How can diverse convictions coexist within the Church ? What role does interpretation play in debate and in pastoral ministry?

With **Father André Cabes**, rector of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, and **Klaus Nientiedt**, editor-in-chief of *Konradsblatt*, Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany).

■ 7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. / Entrance of the Conference Hall : Coffee break

■ 8 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. / Conference Hall

[Démocracy and convictions]

Russia, Poland and Hungary : the power vertical

This session will examine the status of convictions in democratic regimes, analysing the current situation and venturing some definitions. Discourse on convictions is often confined to the private sphere, and the role of convictions in culture and education is generally underestimated, yet strong convictions are essential if democracies are to hold together. Without them, the civilizational order comes under threat.

With **Dominique Potier**, socialist deputy from Meurthe-et-Moselle, and **Daniel Bougnoux**, philosopher.

■ from 9 p.m. / Hôtels Panorama et Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie : walking buffet

Thursday 31st of January 2019

■ 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. / Basilica

Mass

*presided by Mgr Norbert Turini, Bishop of Perpignan-Elne,
president of the Council for Communication of the Bishop's Conference of France*

2. Where convictions can flourish

An exploration of convictions in various spheres of society : family, school and politics

■ 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. / Conference Hall

[Family and convictions]

Passing on convictions within a family

The private and the political constantly interweave. What role do convictions play within a couple, in family life, and in the values passed on from one generation to the next ? How important is what we pass on to our children ?

With **Anne Muxel**, political scientist, and **Father Nigel Barrett**, spokesperson for the Archdiocese of Bombay (India).

■ 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 / Entrance of the Conference Hall : Coffee break

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. / Conference Hall

[School and convictions]

What kind of debate can be held in schools ? Plurality of approaches and construction of individuals

In schools, convictions tend to be largely implicit. When they are discussed, they are generally portrayed negatively, perceived as hostile to scientific and technical knowledge. And yet, convictions are clearly present in teachers and pupils alike, all of which ties in with the meaning and the practice of secularism.

With **Father Pascal Sevez**, director of the Center for Ignatian Pedagogical Studies, and **Fr Walter Chikwendu Ihejirika**, professor at the University of Port Harcourt (Nigeria), president of *Signis Africa*.

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. / Entrance of the Conference Hall : Coffee break

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. / Conference Hall

[Politics and convictions]

Populism and convictions

The lure of radicalism and its limits in combating the status quo. How can we escape it ?

With **Paul Piccarreta**, director of the review *Limites*, and **Bernard Perret**, socio-economist.

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. / Hôtels Panorama et Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie : Lunch

2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m. / Conference Hall

Sanctuary of Lourdes : transformation and rebound

Since 2015, the Sanctuary of Lourdes has undergone a profound transformation : renewed pastoral proposals to announce the Gospel, new events, new pilgrimages, digitization of the Sanctuary, return to a balanced budget. Three and a half years later, it is clear that the Sanctuary has a great capacity to rebound, where people from all over the world come together, with a special presence of tens of thousands of sick and fragile people. How did this mutation occur and for what result ?

Mgr. Nicolas Brouwet, the bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, and **Guillaume de Vulpian**, general director of the Sanctuary and diocesan treasurer, take stock while a "Bernadette Year" opens in Lourdes.

4 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. / Entrance of the Conference Hall : Coffee break

4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. / Conference Hall and other venues nearby or at the Visitor Information Centre

Workshops

[Opinions, convictions and conformist thinking]

Workshop for journalists, with **Martin Feron** (RCF)

[Expressing your convictions : a strategy]

Workshop for communications and sales professionals, with **Marine de Vanssay** (CFRT)

6 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. / Entrance of the Conference Hall : Coffee break

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. / Conference Hall

Keynote speaker

[Jean Birnbaum, editor-in-chief, *Le Monde des livres*]

Jihadism : the religious aspect

Jean Birnbaum is the author of a soundly argued study on the consequences of politicians' refusal to take into account religion. This session offers an opportunity to reflect on the consequences of this "blind spot" towards religion. How can it be overcome ?

8 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. / Conference Hall

Performance of the musical “Bernadette de Lourdes”

which will open at Lourdes’ Robert-Hossein Cultural Centre on the 1st of July 2019

from 9 p.m. / Hôtels Panorama et Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie : walking buffet

Friday 1st of February 2019

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. / Basilica

Mass

*celebrated by Mgr Dominique Lebrun, Archbishop of Rouen,
president of the jury of attribution of the “Father Jacques Hamel” Award*

9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. / Conference Hall

“Father Jacques Hamel” Award

*founded by the Federation of Catholic Media, given out by
Mgr Dominique Lebrun, archbishop of Rouen,
in the presence of Madame Roselyne Hamel, Father Jacques Hamel’s sister*

3. Journalism with convictions

Human beings need convictions about human beings.
They are a matter of fundamental choice – metaphysical, religious or philosophical.
These anthropological choices are necessary.
Media consumers look out for them as a source of guidance.

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. / Conference Hall

[A watered-down media]

Marketing strategies :
how can we sell our convictions ?

To attract the widest possible audience to their brand, media outlets shy away from potentially controversial stances or bold, unequivocal statements, at the risk of promoting bland and uniform writing and approaches.

With Erwan Le Morhedec, lawyer and blogger as Koz, and Jean-Marie Charon, media sociologist.

10:30 a.m.– 11 a.m. / Entrance of the Conference Hall : Coffee break

11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. / Conference Hall

[Opinions, convictions and conformist thinking]

Plurality of viewpoints in the media

The viewpoints espoused in the media and the words chosen to express them create the impression of total uniformity of thought. The sharp corners of the debate have been smoothed out in favour of a limp consensus, even when speaking about the world in which we live. Opinion journalism is often unfairly stigmatized, or even disdained. Yet all media outlets have convictions, explicit or otherwise.

With **Guillaume Tabard**, editor-in-chief and political editorialist, *Le Figaro*, and **Father Jean-Paul Sagadou**, representative of the Provincial Superior of the Augustinians of the Assumption for West Africa.

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. / Entrance of the Conference Hall : Tasting and sale of local products.

12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m. / Conference Hall

[Moving towards constructive journalism]

Building up a more muscular editorial line by proposing solutions

The big political narratives have crumbled. In any media strategy, half-hearted stances do not work. In a world full of uncertainties, readers expect points of reference, the beginnings of answers, and reasons for hope.

With **Gilles Vanderpooten**, director of *Reporters d'Espoirs*, and **Michele Zanzucchi**, leader writer at *Avvenire* (Italy).

1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. / Conference Hall

Closing remarks

Mr Jean-Marie Montel, president of the Federation of Catholic Media and Mr Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication at the Vatican.

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. / Hôtels Panorama et Saint-Sauveur / 9-13 rue Sainte-Marie

Closing lunch

of the 23rd International Days of St. Francis de Sales

4:30 p.m. / Departure of shuttle buses for Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrénées Airport