

The "Semaines Sociales de France"

Bringing many thousands together each year to discuss a societal theme, the "Semaines Sociales de France" provide an opportunity for a wide audience to learn about, reflect on, debate and imagine what a fairer and more fraternal world could be like.

Since 1904 they have contributed to the promotion of the Church's social thinking, to the training of committed Christians and to the proposal of policy measures, often taken up by the legislature. Thanks to their involvement in an international network, the "Semaines" put their efforts firmly within an European perspective.

Chaired by Jérôme Vignon, the "Semaines Sociales de France" is a place of freedom where it is possible to speak and be listened to irrespective of one's political, cultural or religious background.

Registration fees to the session

Category	3 days	Per day
Individual	100 €	50 €
Couple (per person)	80 €	40 €
Clerical	80 €	40 €
Under 30	50 €	20 €
Unemployed	50 €	20 €

To receive the full programme by post (available from July 2008)

Surname:
 First name:
 Address:
 Postcode: Town:.....
 Email:.....

I wish to receive ... copies of the programme (detailed programme, practical information, registration form)

DEP-ANG

Religions threat or hope for ours societies?

The globalization of people and ideas, the presence of religions originated from other continents and cultures and the increase in conflicts linked to religious beliefs lead us to ask ourselves: do religions divide or do they contribute to the cohesion of society?

In Europe this question is particularly relevant as the moral authority of the states decreases. This loss of authority is accompanied by identity tensions but provides an opportunity for debate and participation. This situation deserves an effort of judgement from all parties of the society, public or associative, lay or religious. Under the surface of an ever persistent suspicion towards the churches and the more recently established religions, there is a longing for meaning that goes beyond the usual boundaries between the private and public sectors.

Religions are challenged to respond to this lacuna; without exceeding their own missions they could fill a role of a long term reference point in the democracy. Under what social conditions? Public authorities should certainly recognize unambiguously the social role of the religions. But the latter also need to make changes.

enquiries and registration
www.ssf-fr.org

Full programme and registration details
 on line from July 2008.

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83th Semaines Sociales de France
 friday 21st, saturday 22nd and
 sunday 23rd november 2008
 Lyon - Centre des Congrès

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www.ssf-fr.org

Friday 21st November
Religions, agents for war
and peace in our societies

📖 Introduction

Jérôme Vignon,
président of the "Semaines Sociales de France"

📖 Prologue

Representatives of public or religious authorities coming from Lyon and its region debate together: what do they expect from each other?

📖 Religions on trial

Danièle Hervieu-Léger, *sociologist in religion, president of the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales*

In the light of open conflicts, terrorism or calls for crusade, are religions more often contributors to war and division than to peace?

📖 From indifference to demand for action

Jean-Louis Schlegel, *sociologist, editor and Petr Kolar, sj., Czech theologian (to be confirmed)*
Despite the massive indifference to religion, do not religions remain sources of convictions and driving forces for action?

📖 Religions in society, tools of interpretation

Bruno-Marie Duffé, *philosopher and theologian*
A religion does not merely consist of questions of belonging. Memory, faith, solidarities and ethical convictions feed the link of a religion with the society wherein it exists.

📖 The role and place of religions in society

With : Mustapha Chérif, former minister, former ambassador, Islamic scholar, Paul Valadier, Jesuit, professor of moral and political philosophy, Régine Azria, sociologist

What sort of answers do religions give to contemporary social questions? What is, from their own point of view, their real role in society?

📖 Stage show depicting the religious tradition in Lyon

This show will illustrate the development of the relationships between religion and society in the local history.

Saturday 22nd November
Religions
in the public arena

📖 Review of Friday's session

Bernard Lecomte, *journalist and writer*

📖 Individual, community, society

Jean-Paul Willaime, *sociologist*

Can a society dominated by the individual hold together without an intermediary which gives both sense and value to living together? Do we have to choose between increasing individualism and closed communitarian groups?

📖 Universalism set against pluralism

With Enzo Bianchi, theologian, prior of the Bose Community (Italy) and Julia Kristeva, psychoanalyst, linguist and writer (to be confirmed)

Can we reconcile universalism and tolerance? What are the fruits of the dialogue with other faiths, religions and contemporary culture?

Six workshops for sharing experience and discussion

Using observations, concrete examples and the analysis of conflicts and synergies, these workshops will try to reveal how the relationships between religions and societies develop. They will explore how the communities of faith can, without merging into the society, contribute today to its vitality and its cohesion.

- 1 The management of religions in the public arena
- 2 Religions in the media, art and culture
- 3 Education and training of citizens
- 4 Religions and social cohesion
- 5 Religions and societies faced with science and ethical dilemmas
- 6 Religions and body issues.

Sunday 23rd November
Conditions for renewed
mutual relationships

📖 Review of the workshops' conclusions and the ways forward proposed by the "Semaines Sociales"

Jean-Pierre Rosa, *general delegate of the "Semaines Sociales de France"*

Presentation of the ways forward proposed by the "Semaines Sociales de France" enhanced by the reports from the workshops of the previous day.

📖 Interreligious message of peace and justice

This special moment will bring together all participating religions and faiths.

📖 Questions to the public authorities

Confronted with the ways forward proposed by the "Semaines Sociales", some French and European political leaders respond.

📖 Conditions for a Christian presence in society

Which mechanisms, which principles of cooperation can the hierarchy and the lay people explore so that the religions are heard?

📖 Conclusions of the session

Jérôme Vignon,
President of the "Semaines Sociales de France"