

UPF France's *Peter and Paul - Christianity and Us: Toward a World of Heart*

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On June 29, the date when Catholics commemorate Peter and Paul, the two disciples of Jesus who became the cornerstones of Christianity, UPF France organized a seminar on the theme: "Peter and Paul - Christianity and Us: Toward a World of Heart". The event was held both online and at the UPF headquarters in Paris.



In a time of conflicts and divisions on the international scene, and in the national political arena, the seminar raised a reflection on the role of religion in society and Christianity in particular. Two thousand years ago, Peter and Paul contributed to the advent of a new era. Today, what message and vision is Christianity giving to society?



In a first session moderated by Dr Laurent Ladouce, research fellow at UPF, Father Simon Pierre, a young Jesuit priest from DR Congo, spoke about the background of Peter and Paul and their significance in Christian history. Reviewing some of the milestones in the lives of the two disciples, Father Simon Pierre highlighted their personal experience with Christ, and their conversion to absolute faith, which eventually opened a path for Christianity to spread among the Jews and the "Gentile" world.



The second session, presented by Jacques Marion, president of UPF France, was titled "Christianity and Us - Toward a World of Heart". After describing the Christian roots of the Unification Movement and their Founders, Dr and Mrs. Moon, he outlined the doctrine of heart brought by Christianity to the world, centering on family values: the original ideal centering on family relationships, the "fall" from that ideal, and the restoration of the ideal envisioned in the Bible as the "Marriage of the Lamb", indicating an era of equality and shared authority between men and women.

The seminar on "Pierre and Paul" initiated a new series of events to be held by UPF France on the role of religions in society, to explore their role and significance in modern times.