

(English)

**1st. WORLD ENCOUNTER TERESIAN MYSTICISM AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE**

**Theravāda Buddhism and Teresian Mysticism**

**MEDITATION AND CONTEMPLATION**

**PATHWAYS TO PEACE**

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**International Centre of Teresian and Sanjuanist Studies (CITeS), University of Mysticism**

**The Centre of Buddhist Studies of The University of Hong Kong**

**Ávila ~ Spain, 27-30 July 2017**

**On-site or On-line**

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In times of spiritual crisis and division among peoples, interreligious dialogue is an urgent need. Because of this, the International Centre of Teresian and Sanjuanist Studies (CITeS), "University of Mysticism", is pleased to announce its intention to conduct a series of encounters that will place the Teresian mysticism in dialogue with other religious traditions.

The first of these events is an encounter between Carmelites and Buddhists of the Theravāda school, the oldest among the living traditions of Buddhism, organized in collaboration with the Centre of Buddhist Studies of The University of Hong Kong.

By cordially inviting our brothers and sisters of the Theravāda tradition, we would like to deepen the understanding of our respective faith and practice. There is no wish to deny the differences between the two traditions, or trying to reduce them to a common denominator. Rather, under the principles of equality, deep respect and desire for cooperation, we would like instead to offer the possibility of a genuine and fruitful dialogue and explore options to address the current spiritual crisis. The theme proposed for this encounter is meditation and contemplation.

Among other activities, the encounter will feature presentations, roundtables, prayer and meditation workshops, chanting, all in an atmosphere of conviviality and fraternity.

## PROGRAM

### THURSDAY, JULY 27

17.00 Opening of the conference

17.30 The importance of interreligious dialogue and goals for the encounter:

- From Carmelite perspective / **Dr. Francisco Javier Sancho Fermín**, Director and Professor, CITEs “University of Mysticism”

- From the Buddhist perspective / **Venerable Sik Hin Hung**, Director, Centre of Buddhist Studies, The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

18.30 The Order of the Discalced Carmelites / **Fr. Agustí Borel**, I Definitor of the Discalced Carmelite Order

19.30 The Theravāda Buddhist tradition / **Dr. Asanga Tilakaratne**, Professor of Pāli and Buddhist Studies, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

### FRIDAY, JULY 28

08.30 Ceremony ~ chanting

10.00 Virtue and the Teresian path of prayer / **Dr. Maximiliano Herráiz**, Professor CITEs “University of Mysticism”, Specialist and publisher of the books of Teresa of Jesus and John of the Cross

11.00 The role of sīla (virtue) in the path to liberation / **Venerable Prof. Raluwe Padmasiri**, Head of the Department of Buddhist Philosophy, Postgraduate Institute of Pāli and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

12.10 ~ 13.10 Panel discussion. Moderator: **Dr. Jesús Abraham Velez de Cea**, Professor in the Religion Department at Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky, USA

17.00 Vocal and mental prayer and religiosity in the Carmelite tradition / **Sister María José Pérez**, Discalced Carmelite Nun, from the Puzol Monastery (Valencia)

18.00 Prayer, worship and ritual in the Theravāda tradition / **Venerable Dr. Khammai Dhammasami**, DPhil (Oxford), Trustee & Research Fellow, Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Oxford, Professor, ITBMU, Yangon (Myanmar)

19.00 Panel discussion. Moderator: **Dr. Francesc Torradeflot**, Director of the UNESCO Association for Interreligious Dialogue (Unescocat)

20.00 Prayer- meditation workshop: Buddhist meditation / guided by Venerable **Dr. Dhammadinnā** (Italy), Professor at the Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts (Taiwan), Buddhist Studies Department. Āgama Research Group Director.

## SATURDAY, JULY 29

08.30 Ceremony ~ chanting

10.00 Discursive meditation and the prayer of active recollection / **Dr. Rómulo Cuartas**, Subdirector and Professor, CITEs “University of Mysticism”

11.00 Preliminaries of concentration meditation / **Dr. G.A. Somaratne**, Assistant Professor, Centre of Buddhist Studies, The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

12.10 ~ 13.10 Panel discussion. Moderator: **Venerable Dr. Dhammadinnā**, Professor at the Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts (Taiwan). Āgama Research Group Director.

17.00 Presentation of the awarded papers in the II International Award Teresa of Jesus and Interreligious Dialogue:

- **Cristiana Dobner**: The Diamond Way and the Interior Castle
- **Imanol Bageneta Messeguer**: The Interior Kingdom. The similarities and differences of contemplative spiritualities
- **Jesús Collado Gómez**: Teresa of Ávila and Sidharta: A journey to `no`thing
- **Joy Alumkal Philopose**: St. Teresa of Ávila and Nagarjuna. Two ‘Gurus’ of ‘trans-historical’ relevance with their ‘Middle Way’

20.00 Prayer-meditation workshop: Teresian prayer of recollection / **CITEs community “University of Mysticism”**

## SUNDAY, JULY 30

08.30 Ceremony ~ chanting

10.00 Mystical prayer and its degrees / **Dr. Francisco Javier Sancho Fermín**, Director and Professor, CITEs “University of Mysticism”

11.00 The Jhānas in the path to liberation / **Dr. Rupert Gethin**, Director and Professor, Centre for Buddhist Studies-University of Bristol, President of the Pali Text Society

12.10 ~ 13.10 Panel discussion. Moderator: **Daniel Millet**, Ph.D. Candidate, the Centre of Buddhist Studies of The University of Hong Kong

17.00 Awards ceremony: II International Award Teresa of Jesus and interreligious dialogue

- **Igor Giusti**: St. Teresa of Ávila and Gotama the Buddha: A Comparison of Mystical Stages and Final Spiritual Attainments in St. Teresa’s Path to Union with God and the Buddha’s Path to Nibbāna in Theravāda Buddhism

18.30 Closing paper: Buddhism and Christianity: cooperation for peace

19.30 Conclusion of the conference

## **REGISTRATION**

Send to: CITEs - Apartado 139 - 05080 Ávila – España, or e-mail: [info@mistica.es](mailto:info@mistica.es)

1st. World Encounter Teresian Mysticism and Interreligious Dialogue

CITEs ÁVILA, 27th to 30th July, 2017

Name and Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Nº: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post code: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Tf. \_\_\_\_\_ Mobil: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION: ON-SITE  150 euros                      ON-LINE  60 euros

LOGGING:         48 € / day – single room / meals included

80 € / day – double room / meals included

Date of arrival: \_\_\_\_\_                      Date of departure: \_\_\_\_\_

Possibility of scholarships and grants to students and people with lack of means. Registration will be accepted once the corresponding payment has been made, the registration form has been filled and returned to us along with the receipt of the payment.

- Bank code ~ Banco Santander ~ SPAIN  
SWIFT: BSCHESMM - IBAN: ES53 0049 4630 1822 1751 1895
- CREDIT CARD VISA, MASTERCARD,...: PAYMENT GATEWAY: [www.mistica.es/tpv](http://www.mistica.es/tpv)

Accommodation in the CITEs is limited.

Upon completion of the quota, residence will be provided in another place.

By submitting this Registration Bulletin, you know and agree that data are now provided to the CITEs will be incorporated into an automated database, of which the International Teresian-Sanjuanist Centre is responsible and will be subject to the appropriate treatment. In accordance with the Organic Law 15/1999 of 13 December, of protection of Personal Character data, you may exercise the rights of access, rectification, cancellation and opposition by contacting CITEs via email: [info@mistica.es](mailto:info@mistica.es); Alternatively, by letter - accompanied by photocopy of your DNI - at the registered office, located at C / Arroyo Vacas, 3 - 05005 Ávila.