During the twelfth century Europe is shaken by an intellectual revolution. This cultural revolution gave rise to the birth of the university in the first half of the thirteenth century. The monasteries, which had been the main intellectual centers, give ground little by little to the newly created universities in large European cities: Bologna then Paris, Oxford, Cambridge, Heidelberg…

With a Papal Bull in 1245 Pope Innocent IV vigorously encouraged the Cistercians to go to Paris and study theology, philosophy, literature... and then to transmit their knowledge to their fellow brothers.

It is an English monk, Étienne de Lexington, abbot of Clairvaux, who initiated the project of the Collège Saint Bernard, soon known as Collège des Bernardins, to serve as a place of study and research at the very heart of Christian thought.

In 1248, less than one half-century after the creation of the University of Paris, the construction of the Collège des Bernardins began, financed through Christian philanthropy and influenced by the architectural model of Cistercian abbeys.

During more than four centuries the Collège des Bernardins accommodated hundreds of students and contributed to the intellectual development of the City and the University of Paris.

In 1338, Pope Benedict XII, a former pupil and emeritus professor of the Collège des Bernardins, gave financial help to the construction of the imposing church of the Bernardins, of which only the sacristy remains today. The church was partly destroyed by the creation of the rue de Pontoise (1810) and then by the opening of the Boulevard Saint Germain (1859).

At the time of the French Revolution, the Collège des Bernardins became state property. After a period as a jail, it was soon transformed into a warehouse, and then served briefly again as a school for the Christian Brothers congregation before becoming between 1845 and 1895 a fire station and then a residential school for the Police Academy.

Under the leadership of Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Collège des Bernardins, which had become a listed building in 1887, was finally repurchased in 2001 by the Diocese of Paris, from the City of Paris, in order to offer to the city a dating cultural project in the service of mankind and his future.

Since September 2008 the Collège des Bernardins has been open to the general public for the first time in its history.
The Collège des Bernardins is a space dedicated to the hopes of mankind and to the discussion of questions that confront not only our society but also Christian thought. It is open to everyone and invites you to take part in these dialogues through the activities of reflection and research, education or artistic expression.

In order to connect with men and women in all their spiritual, intellectual and affective diversity, the Collège des Bernardins has a multidisciplinary offering, including:
- exhibitions of contemporary art, the performing arts, music and activities for a younger public;
- meetings and debates (lectures, round tables, colloquia);
- theological and biblical education (École Cathédrale).

The Collège des Bernardins is supported by a Research Center with six departments: “Human societies and educational responsibilities”, “The economy, man and society”, “Immunological ethics”, “Society, freedom, peace”, “Laudato and Christianity”, “Language of art”. The Bernardins Professorial Chair, held annually by an eminent international scholar, contributes to the development of the Research Center.

MISSION

The Collège des Bernardins is a space dedicated to the hopes of mankind and to the discussion of questions that confront not only our society but also Christian thought. It is open to everyone and invites you to take part in these dialogues through the activities of reflection and research, education or artistic expression.

In order to connect with men and women in all their spiritual, intellectual and affective diversity, the Collège des Bernardins has a multidisciplinary offering, including:
- exhibitions of contemporary art, the performing arts, music and activities for a younger public;
- meetings and debates (lectures, round tables, colloquia);
- theological and biblical education (École Cathédrale).

The Collège des Bernardins is supported by a Research Center with six departments: “Human societies and educational responsibilities”, “The economy, man and society”, “Immunological ethics”, “Society, freedom, peace”, “Laudato and Christianity”, “Language of art”. The Bernardins Professorial Chair, held annually by an eminent international scholar, contributes to the development of the Research Center.

MISSION

The Collège des Bernardins is a space dedicated to the hopes of mankind and to the discussion of questions that confront not only our society but also Christian thought. It is open to everyone and invites you to take part in these dialogues through the activities of reflection and research, education or artistic expression.

In order to connect with men and women in all their spiritual, intellectual and affective diversity, the Collège des Bernardins has a multidisciplinary offering, including:
- exhibitions of contemporary art, the performing arts, music and activities for a younger public;
- meetings and debates (lectures, round tables, colloquia);
- theological and biblical education (École Cathédrale).

The Collège des Bernardins is supported by a Research Center with six departments: “Human societies and educational responsibilities”, “The economy, man and society”, “Immunological ethics”, “Society, freedom, peace”, “Laudato and Christianity”, “Language of art”. The Bernardins Professorial Chair, held annually by an eminent international scholar, contributes to the development of the Research Center.

MISSION

The Collège des Bernardins is a space dedicated to the hopes of mankind and to the discussion of questions that confront not only our society but also Christian thought. It is open to everyone and invites you to take part in these dialogues through the activities of reflection and research, education or artistic expression.

In order to connect with men and women in all their spiritual, intellectual and affective diversity, the Collège des Bernardins has a multidisciplinary offering, including:
- exhibitions of contemporary art, the performing arts, music and activities for a younger public;
- meetings and debates (lectures, round tables, colloquia);
- theological and biblical education (École Cathédrale).

The Collège des Bernardins is supported by a Research Center with six departments: “Human societies and educational responsibilities”, “The economy, man and society”, “Immunological ethics”, “Society, freedom, peace”, “Laudato and Christianity”, “Language of art”. The Bernardins Professorial Chair, held annually by an eminent international scholar, contributes to the development of the Research Center.

MISSION

The Collège des Bernardins is a space dedicated to the hopes of mankind and to the discussion of questions that confront not only our society but also Christian thought. It is open to everyone and invites you to take part in these dialogues through the activities of reflection and research, education or artistic expression.

In order to connect with men and women in all their spiritual, intellectual and affective diversity, the Collège des Bernardins has a multidisciplinary offering, including:
- exhibitions of contemporary art, the performing arts, music and activities for a younger public;
- meetings and debates (lectures, round tables, colloquia);
- theological and biblical education (École Cathédrale).

The Collège des Bernardins is supported by a Research Center with six departments: “Human societies and educational responsibilities”, “The economy, man and society”, “Immunological ethics”, “Society, freedom, peace”, “Laudato and Christianity”, “Language of art”. The Bernardins Professorial Chair, held annually by an eminent international scholar, contributes to the development of the Research Center.

MISSION

The Collège des Bernardins is a space dedicated to the hopes of mankind and to the discussion of questions that confront not only our society but also Christian thought. It is open to everyone and invites you to take part in these dialogues through the activities of reflection and research, education or artistic expression.

In order to connect with men and women in all their spiritual, intellectual and affective diversity, the Collège des Bernardins has a multidisciplinary offering, including:
- exhibitions of contemporary art, the performing arts, music and activities for a younger public;
- meetings and debates (lectures, round tables, colloquia);
- theological and biblical education (École Cathédrale).

The Collège des Bernardins is supported by a Research Center with six departments: “Human societies and educational responsibilities”, “The economy, man and society”, “Immunological ethics”, “Society, freedom, peace”, “Laudato and Christianity”, “Language of art”. The Bernardins Professorial Chair, held annually by an eminent international scholar, contributes to the development of the Research Center.