The New Chartres Academy

In the Middle Ages Chartres served as a focal point for the mysteries of healing, reestablishing the inherent harmony of each human being with the cosmos, with the Earth, and with the deepest core of one’s being. The New Chartres Academy will continue to bring these three ideals toward realization, birthing the new human being—Homo Universalis—and serving the resacralization of the Earth.

The Chartrean masters and their pupils practiced a path of initiation that lead to an active communion with the world of the spirit. The new cycle of the New Chartres Academy will encompass a path of inner development, awakening the spiritual dimensions of the human being beyond the content of knowledge. The Chartrean path was founded on the mysteries of birth, not only the soul’s entry into physical existence by way of procreation, but also the birth of the higher self of the human being, the Divine I AM, within each of us.

Chartres was a spiritual meeting point of many spiritual streams seeking to be an active center from which healing forces would influence society. During the course of the next seven-year cycle of the New Chartres Academy, we will address three central questions from the perspective of many wisdom streams: How can human beings, through spiritual awareness, heal our personal soul and the collective soul of humanity? How can we heal the Earth from the desecration she bears? How can human beings, through spiritual communion, heal the social ills of humanity?
Reimagining The Seven Liberal Arts

Chartres has been a sacred site where the divine feminine has been revered for over 3,000 years since the Druids consecrated the land to the Earth Mother. First called Carnute, Druids worshiped there in the sacred grove and at the holy well in close communion with Mother Nature. The local tribes worshiped a Goddess who was depicted as giving birth. The site on which Chartres cathedral now stands, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was for millennia a sacred place of the Earth Mother.

The sacred feminine survived behind the veil of the Black Madonna, through the Virgin Mary, and Mary Magdalene. The sacred relic of Mary’s Tunic—the “Sancta Camisia”—, variously described as being worn by Mary during the Annunciation or during the birth of Christ, survived the fire of 1194 and confers the dedication of this site to the divine feminine and the mysteries of birth. The vast collection of sacred feminine art within Chartres Cathedral includes over 400 images. Two Black Virgins, the tunic of the Virgin Mary, the sacred well, the labyrinth, feminine architecture, and the famous rose stained glass windows are among the images of the feminine. Joseph Campbell called Chartres the “womb of the world.”

During the fourth century a mystic, Martianus Capella, born in North Africa and steeped in the Egyptian and Greco-Roman mystery traditions, articulated the first description of the Liberal Arts that is recorded. He described them imaginatively through an allegorical wedding between Mercury and Philologia, as seven majestic female spiritualized beings, each one representing in turn grammar, rhetoric, dialectic (called the Trivium) and arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy (called the Quadrivium). It was this understanding and this curriculum that was brought together and formalized into a curriculum at Chartres a thousand years ago.

At the formation of the Chartres Academy, Fulbertus established a curriculum of seven liberal arts. “Wisdom has built her house. She has set up her seven pillars.” Proverbs 9:1. Wisdom’s seven pillars are the spiritual infrastructure of the Seven Liberal Arts that for the Chartres masters were the portal of transformation to becoming a divine human. Entering Wisdom’s House requires inner discipline and training one’s spiritual faculties. The seven liberal arts were more than disciplines; they were beings. The study of an art was an approach to a being. The mastery of an art was a connection with a being who, belonging to the spiritual hierarchies, would then inspire one as the priestess or guardian of that particular art. Each of the seven guardians had her “place” in the spiritual world, which was one of the planetary spheres. To follow the path of the seven liberal arts was to bring one’s soul into right relationship with the planetary system. The arts were studied in a definite order, mirroring the order of the cosmos. Beginning with a study of Grammatica, a pupil ascended the ladder of the arts, in a gradual progression with a commitment to learning through an initiatory engagement with the mysteries of transformation.

The New Chartres School, inaugurated in Chartres in July 2006, completed the first cycle of the seven liberal arts in July 2012. The second cycle will begin in July 2013 with Grammatica, cultivating the language of divine consciousness. Each year the immersion into one of the seven liberal arts will be enhanced with the teachings from one of the great mystical traditions of the world: Buddhist Mysticism, Indigenous Wisdom, Sufism, Christian Mysticism, the Kabbalah, Hindu Mysticism, and Integral Mysticism.

The New Chartres Academy continues to celebrate the millennial anniversary of the School of Chartres to further the evolution of human consciousness. For as each human being awakens to his or her true spiritual nature the healing of the Earth takes place. Through our individual transformation, society, culture, nature, and world conflict will be healed. To find one’s place in the universe, to discover one’s wholeness, to cultivate one’s divine nature, will seed a future of hope. We invite you to join us on this journey.
GRAMMATICA
July 7 - 13, 2013
Illuminating the Language of Divine Consciousness
Represented by AELIUS DONATUS (fl. mid 4th century AD)
establishing right relationship with the planetary sphere of the
MOON

DIALECTICA
July 6 - 12, 2014
The Art of Spiritual Dialogue
Represented by ARISTOTLE (384 BC – 322 BC)
establishing right relationship with the planetary sphere of
MERCURY

RHETORICA
July 5 - 11, 2015
Awakening Beauty and Goodness in the Word
Represented by MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO (106 BC – 43 BC)
establishing right relationship with the planetary sphere of
VENUS

MUSICA
July 3 - 9, 2016
Approaching the Harmony of the Spheres
Represented by PYTHAGORAS (106 BC – 43 BC)
establishing right relationship with the planetary sphere of the
SUN

ARITHMETICA
July 2 - 8, 2017
Sacred Number, the Matrix of the Creation
Represented by PYTHAGORAS (106 BC – 43 BC)
establishing right relationship with the planetary sphere of
MARS

GEOMETRICA
July 1 - 7, 2018
The Architecture of the Universe
Represented by EUCLID (fl. 300 BC)
establishing right relationship with the planetary sphere of
JUPITER

ASTRONOMICA
July 7 - 13, 2019
The Divine Order of the Cosmos
Represented by CLAUDIUS PTOLEMAEUS (90 AD – 168 AD)
establishing right relationship with the planetary sphere of
SATURN