



Quote: Sophie Lespinasse-Milan, *Danced spiritual life of Teresa of Avila and current witnesses*, Opening and closing, Claudine Gérez, online seminar n°12, Dance and Spirituality/Christianity, International Council of Dance, 22/11/2025.

## **"Danced Spiritual Life of Teresa of Avila and Current Witnesses" Opening and closing by Claudine Gérez**

### **Opening of the Seminar**

Good morning and welcome to this twelfth online seminar of our "Dance and Christianity" group, which is part of the "Dance and Spirituality" program of the CID, the International Dance Council, an official partner of UNESCO.

The program director, Dr. Constantin Kontogiannis, honors us with his presence, assisted by Méлина Hassani.

You will find English translations of this seminar in the chat. We encourage you to refer to them.

I am Claudine GEREZ, and I coordinate the Steering Committee for this "Dance and Christianity" group. I also serve as the representative for the Catholic Church. Thank you to the other members of the Steering Committee for being here:

- Nathalie GUILLEMÉ, who will be speaking at this seminar and is also our representative for heritage. Hello Nathalie.
- Sahima BEN MOUHOU, representative for Berber Christianity. Hello Sahima.
- Tiffany MAC SWAKER, who recently joined our team, did a fantastic job creating our website and manages our social media presence. Hello Tiffany.

We have included the website link in a document in the chat. Please feel free to check it out and discover the profiles of the Christian dancers who have joined our network. If any of you feel drawn to be listed there, please don't hesitate to contact us through the website. <https://www.danceandchristianity-cid.com>

You can also follow us on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. The links are in the same document.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@DanceChristianityCID/shorts>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581513545190>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/danceandchristianity/>

We have also included a link to the complete seminar archives, including documents and a video replay, which will be available in December. We will also post this link in the chat.

<https://www.danceandchristianity-cid.com/dancedspirituallifeofteresaofavila>

Today's seminar focuses on "The Danced Spiritual Life of Teresa of Avila and Contemporary Witnesses" and is presented by Sophie Lespinasse-Milan.



Sophie is a dance researcher, a member of the Carmelite family, and she dedicates her life, her research, and her heart to the practice of danced spiritual life. She has published an article on the practice of dance in Teresa of Avila's life, available on the "Dance and Spirituality" program website.

I've included the link in the chat: <https://cid-ds.org/teresa-davila/>

It was only natural that we turned to her to lead this seminar on this theme, and we warmly thank her for accepting our invitation and for her invaluable contribution to the organization of this seminar. Today, she joins our "Dance and Christianity" group as the expert on dance-prayer practices among consecrated persons, both religious and lay. Hello Sophie.

Before handing the floor to Sophie LESPINASSE-MILAN, I'd like to clarify an important technical point regarding the quality of the video images that will be shared: it is necessary to turn off your cameras when sharing your screen.

I wish you a pleasant seminar.

\*\*\*

### **Seminar Closing Remarks**

A huge thank you to you, Sophie LESPINASSE-MILAN, for presenting this seminar. I also thank all the participants who shared their testimonies and presented both their research and their spiritual intimacy through dance.

I thank Dr. Constantin KONTOGIANNIS for his presence and hospitality within this "Dance and Spirituality" program.

The next seminar in this program will take place on December 13th, on the theme of "The Art and Spirit of Dunhuang Dance," inspired by Buddhist murals found in caves in the Dunhuang region of China.

For this "Dance and Christianity" group, we will meet again in January with Pastor Virginia NFA, our contact person for Protestant and Evangelical churches. She will present the role of dance in the Bible.

In the meantime, please feel free to explore our new website and share this conference, which will be available for free replay in a few days.

<https://www.danceandchristianity-cid.com/dancedspirituallifeofteresaofavila>

Have a wonderful rest of the day, and we look forward to seeing you at the next seminar.