

TEILHARD STUDIES

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Rev. Franklin E. Vilas, D.Min. is a priest in the Episcopal Church. With degrees from Yale University, Virginia Theological Seminary, Andover Newton Theological School, and New York Divinity School, he has served as spiritual leader in parishes in the Northeast, including Trinity Church and St. Paul's Chapel in Lower Manhattan. While serving in New York City as president of the C.G. Jung Foundation, he joined with Thomas Berry of the American Teilhard Association in 1975 to convene a conference on the convergence of the works of Teilhard and Jung. In the 1980's, as Executive Director of Wainwright House in Rye, New York, he taught the section on Jung for the Guild of Spiritual Guidance, whose curriculum of three streams of thought included the Christian Mystics, the cosmology of Teilhard, and the psychology of Carl Jung.

Long a member of the American Teilhard Association's board of trustees, Dr. Vilas coordinated the 2005 memorial events on the 50th anniversary of the death of Teilhard at the United Nations Center in New York and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Inspired by the works of Teilhard and Jung, he became active in the movement of Spiritual ecology in the 1980's and represented the Interfaith Partnership on the Environment of the United Nations Environment Programme of which he was a founder at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. He is also a founder of GreenFaith (www.greenfaith.org), an interfaith statewide organization on ecology in the state of New Jersey, and the national Episcopal Environmental Network (www.eenonline.org) He is a member of the board of trustees of the Temple of Understanding, one of the oldest interfaith organizations. Presently, Dr. Vilas is retired and lives with his wife, Joyce, in Lakewood, New Jersey.

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