

FILAOS, PINES, PÈRES BONHEUR... AND AFTER? EVERYTHING THAT CHANGES WITHOUT BREAKING THE MAGIC!



If we consider the Vatican's clarification regarding the incorrect date of birth, the pagan origins of the Saturnalia festivals, and the explicit refusal by certain communities to retain the word « Christmas, » we observe a historical and cultural transition that can be summarized by these points:

1. A historical truth that has become public

The Vatican itself admits that December 25th is merely a symbolic date chosen in the 4th century to coincide with the Saturnalia (Roman festivals from December 17-23) and the worship of Sol Invictus.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/fr/eglise/news/2020-12/naissance-de-jesus-que-dit-l-historien.html>

Benoît XVI, followed by subsequent publications, confirmed that no one knows the actual day of Jesus's birth. Once this information became known to the general public, the calendar myth loses its binding power: the liturgical connection is broken.. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/2012/11/20/01016-20121120ARTFIG00501-benoit-xvi-remet-en-cause-la-date-de-la-naissance-du-christ.php>

2. Already a significant semantic shift

Nantes: « Winter Travel » – the word Christmas has disappeared from the official banners.

<https://www.levoyageanantes.fr/evenements/le-voyage-en-hiver/>

- **Saint-Denis:** « Beautiful winter » : the "Christmas Market" mention removed from the signs and the municipal website. <https://www.saintdenis.fr/bel-hiver-marche-noel>
- **Angers:** « Winter sun » – the overall title that still coexists with the word "Christmas" in the tourist brochures. <https://www.angers.fr/vivre-a-angers/culture/arts-de-la-rue-arts-du-cirque/soleils-d-hiver/le-programme-de-soleils-d-hiver/index.html>

- **Saint-Mandé:** « Enchanted Winter » – ice rink, illuminations, and market all brought together under this single banner. <https://94.citoyens.com/evenement/hiver-enchante-marche-de-noel-a-saint-mande>

Displayed motif for everyone: religious neutrality, multiculturalism, inclusion of diverse beliefs and non-believers, prevention of conflicts, secularism.

The process has been initiated; it is no longer about temporary coexistence but about an already operational succession.

3. "Winter" or "Christmas": a name that freezes half the world

Why is « Celebrations of Joy » the only truly multicultural name?



Calling a festival "Winter Journey," "Winter Suns," or "Beautiful Winter" may appeal to cities in mainland France, but it overlooks one obvious fact: one-third of the world's population—Central and South America, the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, Guyana, Réunion, and Africa—experiences warmth, blooming, and beaches in December. By anchoring the celebration in the very notion of winter, the French names immediately exclude these territories and their diasporas, stripping the festival of its multicultural dimension.

The Festivals of Happiness invert the logic: a single foundation, applicable to both cold and tropical climates, replacing seasons with a universal value – shared happiness. Same calendar, same gestures (lights, gatherings, gifts), but a name that can be decorated with palms or snow depending on the latitude. The result:

- one single brand, one license, one story capable of uniting Montreal, Fort-de-France, Mexico, Taiwan, or Dakar.
- Never ask anyone to "pretend to be cold."

4. Shared Lights: A Festive Season Without Borders



Originally, the holiday season combined lights, feasts, and gift exchanges. These universal gestures, now embraced by the Festivals of Happiness, become a common foundation: same date, same stars in the streets, but an open invitation to all cultures, beliefs, and philosophies to celebrate together sharing and conviviality.

5. A universal celebration, beyond dogmas

On the ground, the term « Christmas » has already given way in some communities to a multitude of local names (« Winter travel », « Beautiful Winter », « Winter Sun », « Enchanted Winter » etc.). « Festivals of Joy » (Joy Celebrations) does not compete with these names: it simply offers a unified, neutral, and multicultural alternative so that all these initiatives can converge under a single label without losing their own identity.

The "Festivals of Joy" incorporate gestures, lights, and gifts, but strip them of any theological or mythological symbolism. The goal is not to revive ancient cults or to place a god behind the celebration;

it is to create a universal foundation where each person—believer or not—can insert their own beliefs or simply their desire to celebrate. Mutual aid, respect, sharing, love, and the pursuit of happiness become the sole thread, broad enough to encompass all spiritualities and simple enough to exclude none.

6. Consequence: a smooth evolution, without exclusion.

- **2025-2026** : The towns will illuminate streets and facades under the banner « Festivals of Joy » (Joy Celebrations): Christmas trees, golden garlands, Lumidryche installations, and Father Joy figures. In Northern countries, the traditional red and green accents will remain visible, blended with the new emerald-gold color scheme. Each business, association, or individual is free to add the word « Bonheur » (Joy) to their shop window or marketplace; no official label is required.
- **2027** : The name « Festivals of Joy » will become the official designation for the municipal events on December 25th, but markets, concerts, and activities will initially continue under their usual names, without any restrictions. Gradually, each organizer may, if they wish, rename their event « Market of Joy » (Joy Market) without any administrative procedures or additional cost: the label « Compatible with Festivities of Joy » remains optional and does not prohibit the use of the word « Noël » (Christmas) in private or commercial spaces unless a government decision states otherwise.
- **Conclusion**
he calendar remains the same; only the public label changes: "Christmas" evolves into the new Festivities of Happiness. Everyone is free to interpret it according to their faith, the simple joy of being together, or any other cultural significance. One date, one atmosphere, two terms: the transition occurs smoothly, without rupture or exclusion.

<https://www.peresbonheur.com/partners/presentation-folder/>