

**The Kingdom of God
and
The New Evangelization**

Effingham and Fetcham

Advent 2018



*The time is fulfilled and
the Kingdom of God is
at hand.*

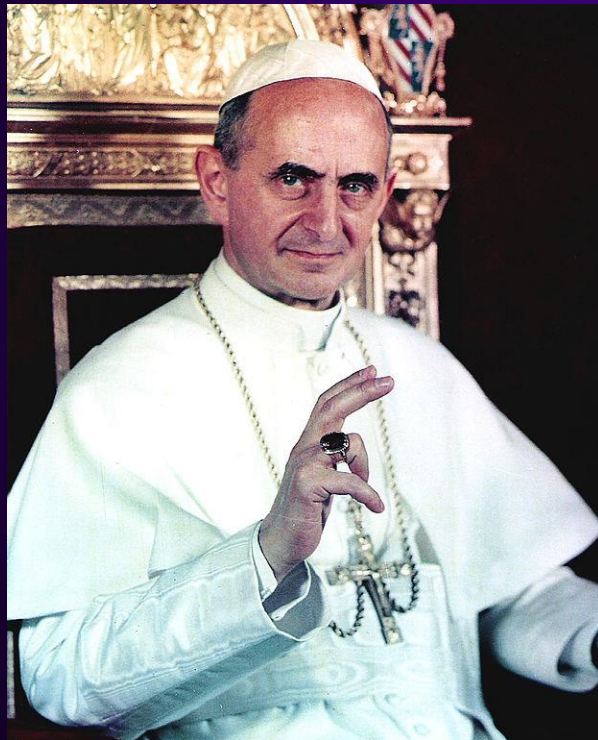
*Repent and believe the
Good News.*

"Evangelium"

Outline of these Sessions

1. What is the New Evangelization?
 - What is **NEW** about the New Evangelization?
2. What is the Kingdom of God?
 - How does it relate to **Jesus**, the **Church** and **us**?
3. What are the key issues for preaching the Kingdom of God today?
 - Can we find a **new apologetic**?

What is the New Evangelization?



- Evangelii Nuntiandi (1975)
 - a *fresh forward impulse*, capable of creating within a Church still more firmly rooted in the undying power and strength of Pentecost a *new period of evangelization*.
 - Modern man listens more willingly to *witnesses* than to *teachers*, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.

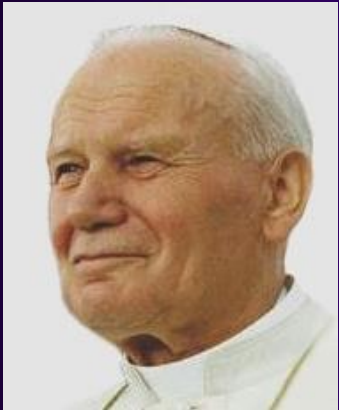
What is the New Evangelization?



Look to the future with commitment to a New Evangelization, one that is **new** in its **ardour**, new in its **methods**, and new in its **expression**.

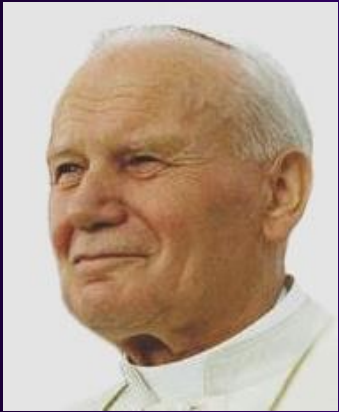
Address to Latin American Bishops (1983)

What is the New Evangelization?



1. Christ and his Gospel are not known
→ Mission ad gentes
2. Christian communities fervent in faith
→ Church activity and pastoral care.
3. Countries with ancient Christian roots
lost a living sense of the faith
live a life far removed from Christ
→ New Evangelization or
Re-evangelization

What is the New Evangelization?



I sense that the moment has come to **commit** all of the Church's energies to a new evangelization and to the mission ad gentes. **No believer in Christ**, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.

St John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio* 3

What is the New Evangelization?



Our own time, then, must be increasingly marked by new hearing of God's word and a **new evangelization**

... vigorously to embark upon the **new evangelization**, especially in those nations where the Gospel has been **forgotten** or meets with **indifference** as a result of widespread **secularism**.

What is the New Evangelization?



In virtue of their **baptism**, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples. All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of **evangelization**.

... The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of **each** of the baptized.

What is New about the New Evangelization?

- Nothing!
 - Same message
 - Same mission
- Everything
 - The Gospel is always new
 - *Here is a teaching that is new, with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him. (Mk 1:27)*

What is New about the New Evangelization?

- There has been a crisis of Evangelization
 - for various reasons ...

All people will be saved ???

- Vatican II
- *Lumen Gentium* 15 – 16
 - Non-Catholic Christians
 - Jews
 - Muslims
 - those who do not believe in God
 - can be saved ...

→ Evangelization is unnecessary?

All people will be saved ???

Logical error (1)

“Can be saved” = “Will be saved”

All people will be saved ???

- *Lumen Gentium* 16 – the last paragraph
- *But often men, deceived by the Evil One, have become vain in their reasonings and have exchanged the truth of God for a lie, serving the creature rather than the Creator. Or some there are who, living and dying in this world without God, are exposed to final despair. Wherefore to promote the glory of God and procure the salvation of all of these, and mindful of the command of the Lord, "Preach the Gospel to every creature", the Church fosters the missions with care and attention.*

All people will be saved ???

Logical error (2)

“Can be saved”

=

“Don't need to know about Jesus”

A Crisis of Evangelization

- Presuming all people will be saved
 - Evangelization is unnecessary
- Mistaken understanding of Dialogue
 - Evangelization is just my monologue
- Culture of Dissent
 - Evangelization is me imposing my personal ideas
- Mistaken view of Liturgy and Sacraments
 - Evangelization is cultural imperialism

A New Cultural Situation

- Modern Science
- Philosophical turn to the subject
 - “I think therefore I am”
 - subjectivism
 - secularism
- Crisis of faith

A New Pastoral Situation

- Post-Christian Culture
- In the world
 - presumed atheism
 - presumed disposal of Christianity
- In the Church
 - lapsation
 - sacramentalised but not catechized
 - sacramentalised but not evangelized

Solutions ?

- Be aware of the issues
- Use new opportunities
- Our own deeper conversion
 - *To this end, it is more necessary than ever for all the faithful to move from a faith of habit, sustained perhaps by social context alone, to a faith which is conscious and personally lived. The renewal of faith will always be the best way to lead others to the Truth that is Christ.*

Solutions ?

- Be aware of the issues
- Use new opportunities
- Our own deeper conversion
- Culture of thinking with Christ – not dissent
- Awareness of distinctiveness of faith
- Centrality of Person of Christ
- Evangelization flows from the Trinity
- Do not be afraid

Questions for Discussion

- What struck you this evening?
 - what did you agree / disagree with?
 - what made you feel motivated / excited?
 - did anything make you feel anxious / inadequate?
- What might Jesus be saying to us?
 - or to you personally (maybe keep this private)?
- What are the key issues for us in E&F?
- What are the key opportunities for us in E&F?



*Lord, the Word who is Life,
May all the people of our
diocese grow in openness
to the power of the Holy
Spirit, so that through a
growth in understanding
and courage, and truly
open to your call, we may
bear powerful witness to all
around us, for you are Lord
for ever and ever. Amen.*