

## Digital Disciples: Sharing the Good News in a Modern World

Apostles of God can be everywhere: in your city, across the world, or behind a screen. Technology is an integral part of our modern lives. Although there can be negative consequences and online dangers, the internet can also be a very comforting place. When we take a closer look at what technology has done for us, we realize how much it helps us educate with the tap of a screen or a click of a button. Advances in the past couple of decades allow everyone to have access to an infinite bank of knowledge. Christians can use online platforms to help spread the Word of Jesus Christ. Influencers, websites, and audio/video systems within our churches are evangelizing in the new digital age.

Influencers help spread the Word of God to everyone with just a click of a button. People all over the Earth can open an app such as TikTok, Instagram, or YouTube and learn of all the great things our Lord has done for us. As soon as you click the “follow” button for your favorite ambassadors of Christ, you will be notified when more content is released. By welcoming new believers with joy and respect, these role models shepherd more of God's sheep to His flock. These platforms are accessible and cheap to use, and individuals across the globe can open them anytime, anywhere.

Websites have revolutionized our future by making purchasing products easier and more readily available. We can open the Amazon or Target apps, click add to cart, and the products will arrive at our doorstep in a few days. Everyone has the opportunity to buy bibles, rosaries, and religious sweatshirts with one simple click. Church websites and social media can advertise events like weekly get-togethers and special celebrations. Because it is now effortless to congregate people, our brothers and sisters in faith can come together and socialize with others who share the same beliefs.

New video cameras in Church allow people to watch Mass online. This revolutionized how people can attend mass, making it accessible for those traveling or who are sick. This is helping to protect all of God's Children, as people do not feel pressured to go to church even if their sickness is contagious. Podcasts, like the *Bible in a Year* and the *Catechism in a Year* series, help spread the Good News in an interesting way. A popular TV show, *The Chosen*, tells of all the great things that Jesus has done for us in a captivating manner, drawing in millions of people. Despite no cost to stream from your home, its season finale topped the theaters on its opening night, beating even the most popular movies.

The Internet is a quick, inexpensive, and easily accessible way to learn and teach. We can practically carry the whole world of knowledge in our pockets or purses. In addition to educating ourselves, we also can teach others what we know, spreading the Christian message of love to those on the other side of their devices. It is estimated that nearly 70% of our population has access to the internet, a whopping 5.3 billion individuals. As disciples of Christ, we can use the wide reach of technology to evangelize the Word of God to those who may have never had the opportunity before. You may need patience, kindness, and endurance while building these new relationships and drawing people closer to God, but we all share a common goal: reuniting with our Father in Heaven.