

Evangelizing the world in a new way

The concept of evangelization in history has been a focal point for all religions since the dawn of time. It is the way that Christianity as a whole has gone from Jerusalem to over 2.5 billion people across the globe. According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, evangelization itself means “bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individual society by the divine power of the Gospel.” This has always been used in a “word of mouth” context, but as we divulge into the 21st century, there have been large technological advances that can help with evangelization.

Christianity depends on the community. The community we live in decides what we do and how we act. The more people in a community, the more active and alive we are in serving God. As Pope Paul VI said, “There is no doubt that the effort to proclaim the Gospel to the people of today, who are buoyed up by hope but at the same time often oppressed by fear and distress, is a service rendered to the Christian community and also to the whole of humanity.” The Church digitizing will be able to reach out to more people and grow a community everywhere. Here are some ways that the Church can digitalize.

First, the Church can digitalize by using social media. 93% of all people who use the internet use social media. It has many forms, including Instagram, Tiktok, Facebook, and Twitter. Social media has taught me new ways to read the Bible and the true message of some of the most important bible verses. It is incredibly easy to post things about Christianity and Catholicism, to the extent that many influencers already do. Social media is great for reaching out to communities that may struggle to find the light of Christ.

Next, the Church can use Youtube. Youtube is used by many young adults and teenagers. It is the pinnacle of all video platforms, and can easily be used to capture new disciples of Christ. Personally, I’ve used Youtube to learn new things, seize knowledge, and research on topics of interest. Youtube can attract people who have never heard of the Gospel or the Bible. People like Bishop Robert Barron have already shown the outreach that youtube can bring to people of all ages. If we can bring people who are non-religious from Youtube to Christ, then the Church will grow tenfold.

Also, the Church can use news broadcasts. News broadcasts, like CNN, Fox, NBC, ABC, and BBC are heard all over the world. The impact that news broadcasts have on people is extraordinary. It’s the way politicians reach to people to grab their vote or how people connect to crimes or natural disasters. News allows us to learn about things that happen from across the world. So, why don’t we do the same for Christianity? We can broadcast events that the Pope goes to or speeches that Cardinals and Bishops give.

Another way we can digitize evangelism is through websites. With electronic devices such as this computer that I’m typing on or our phones and tablets, we can easily access the web. Websites are simple to set up and can attract an audience of billions. The average internet user

visits about 130 websites per day. This means that most people just automatically click on websites that they find interesting. There are people in my family who tried to tell me that transubstantiation is fake. So, I found a website on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and learned the truth of the eucharist. The Church can set up a website that can help people see the light and salvation of God. It can have specific people who can talk with people in need, similar to a hotline.

Evangelism is evolving into a new era of communication. We are going from word to word, paper to paper, to social media platforms, news broadcasts, and websites. As the world digitizes in front of us, so too should evangelism conform to the new norms of life. As Pope Paul VI said, "We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church." Evangelism is how Catholicism and Christianity itself spread to over 1/3rd of the global population. The internet can help our religion grow to the other 2/3rds of the world.