

FREE Evangelization Inserts for Bulletins Newsletters & Websites

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Time
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Questions, Comments Suggestions?
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Living Catholic in the 808: What is the New Evangelization?

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The New Evangelization is a notion principally advanced by St. John Paul II. In contrast to the traditional evangelization of non-Christian peoples, the new evangelization focuses on reaching out to unchurched Catholics, what others would call “cultural Catholics,” those that are Catholic in name but not in mind, heart and soul.

There are four essential goals: First, we must recognize that cultural developments of recent times offer new opportunities for evangelization. In particular, new technologies that facilitate mass communication and personal interaction are to be used to share Christ with others. Everything from EWTN to tweets from pastors to myParish App on smart phones is an example of this.

Second, the new evangelization should avoid compromise with any cultural assumptions that in theory or practice deny the dignity of any class of human beings. Messages of power, wealth, honor and endless pleasure seem normal and healthy in our culture but are usually the antithesis of the message of Jesus Christ.

Third, the new evangelization must overwhelmingly affirm the love of God and of Jesus Christ. People are won over by lives lived out in love, not words of coercion. Finally, each of us is called to a deeper appreciation of the value of *holiness* in one’s life and *communion* with others in the name and body of Christ.