WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Media Manual

Sponsored by the Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
Media Apostolate

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Pastor Information

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World Communications Day

Sponsored by the
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate

"...we encourage the pastors and people of the Church to deepen their understanding of issues relating to communications and media, and to translate their understanding into practical policies and workable programs."

– Pastoral Instruction, Aetatis Novae, 3
Pontifical Council on Social Communications
Introduction

The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate has prepared a World Communications Day Media Manual as a guide to be used by parishes and organizations to help them plan, organize and implement their own World Communications Day Media Information Fair. Sections have been created to define specific functions whose components present a flexible model that may be used to accommodate the various needs of each user. The subject matter is sometimes presented in a checklist format and at other times in an explanatory context. In addition, various examples of forms that may be used are also included. It is our sincere hope that this manual will serve the needs of those people who have accepted the Church’s call to catechize and evangelize mankind through the use of the modern means of social communications.

World Communications Day, as outlined in the document Inter Mirifica, is the only worldwide celebration called for by the Second Vatican Council.

On May 7, 1967, Pope Paul VI issued the 1st World Communications Message, "Church and Social Communication: First World Communications Day." In that message, he set forth the basic underlying principal of World Communications Day: that through modern means of social communication we see "the unfolding and realization of a wonderful plan of God's providence, which opens to man's genius ever new ways of achieving His perfection and of attaining to His final end..." That end is not only to the enrichment of culture and to the mutual knowledge and understanding among peoples, but also to the spread of the Gospel message.

Paul VI goes on to warn of the danger and damage that the means of social communication can inflict upon society when these means are not used with a sense of responsibility, an honest intent, or a respect for human dignity.

He also emphasized that the means of social communication have a particularly profound effect on the impressionable minds of the young and have the ability to shape their present and future lives.

In his message, Pope Paul VI pleads with the members of the professional world of social communications, asking them to bear witness to the truth and the Word of God and to use their talents as a means to a higher end.

He also reaches out to the general public to use discernment in their choice of newspapers, magazines, motion pictures, and broadcast media and he reaches out to parents and teachers who are responsible for the education and development of children.

The following excerpt is the directive that the Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate takes to establish a World Communications Day plan that may be used as a guide to establish a World Communications Day celebration at the parish level:
"Most helpful and laudable is therefore, every serious initiative that aims at forming the critical judgment of the reader and spectator, and at inducing him to elevate the news, the ideas and the images that are presented to him, not only under the aesthetical and technical aspects, but also from the human moral and religious point of view, bearing in mind the highest values of life."

Pope Paul VI goes on to say:

"We therefore express the hope that this "Day" may prove an occasion for a considered appeal aimed at an awakening of consciences and a united endeavor on the part of all in such an important cause. We exhort Our sons and daughters to undertake generous action, in prayerful unity of intent with their Pastors and with all who are willing to give their welcome cooperation, in order that, with God's help and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, they might attain those results that the celebration of World Communications Day aims at achieving for the good of mankind."

Given this background as our genesis, the Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate has developed the following mission statement:

The World Communications Day Committee, under the direction of a chairman, will develop and provide a three-part instructional program to be used by parishes that will:

1 – educate their parishioners on the value and meaning of quality media;

2 – teach them sound methods to effectively counteract negative and/or immoral uses of media; and

3 – give them the tools to create a demand for quality media.

The World Communications Day celebration will be designed as an annual event parishes may use to promote World Communications Day, as designated by Rome, and, each year, will follow a specific theme based on the Holy Father’s message for World Communications Day.

As stated, the appeal for a celebration of World Communications Day is made to two groups: the first, to the professionals and leaders in the social communications industry and the second, to the general population – parents, teachers, “every reader, every spectator”.

The Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate outline for the celebration of World Communications Day concentrates on the second audience, that of the laity.
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We have entered into our century into more than just what we popularly call 'the communication age'. It is and it no doubt it will be until the end of time, the age of communication, but just because, just because it is the age of communication it is meant to be as the Second Vatican Council could not have made plainer, in its document, Inter Mirifica the most neglected of the sixteen documents of Vatican II. Just because we entered the age of communications in the providence of God, this is meant to be the age of evangelization. We might also in one sense say we are beginning a new apostolic age. Our age offers the prospect of bringing millions, hundred of millions to the feet of Jesus Christ. Just as the world had been brought to the feet of Christ by St. Paul, but how this world needs, how it needs a St Paul. Pope John Paul II, anticipating the crisis in which the world is now passing tells us, he is looking forward to the twenty-first century as the brightest in the history of Christianity. But on one condition, that condition is that we have the faith and zeal of St. Paul. Consequently, please God, this will not happen if the media of communication will remain that sterile instrument and potential means unless there arrives in our day, and soon, faithful in every state of life who's love of Christ is so ardent who's love of Jesus is so burning, that it cannot remain in themselves but must be communicated to others. The very essence of love is to give. Love wants to share. "Must" is not too strong a word to describe an attitude of spirit that craves, craves, to share with the hunger for giving what is born of God. That you, like God, to share if possible with the whole human race.
Dear Mrs. Gruss;

It is with deep sentiments of gratitude to God, that I express my endorsement and encouragement to Father John A. Hardon Media Apostolate. My gratitude is for what Christ accomplished through Father Hardon during his long, exemplary and apostolic life. Gratitude also for what he keeps accomplishing through Father’s intercession and inspiration.

May Our Lady of the Sacred Rosary, which we celebrate today bless and sustain every one of the new apostles who contribute in the Media to the constant evangelization of the world.

In Jesus and Mary,

Edouard Cardinal Gagnon, P.S.S.
October 28, 2004—Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With this letter I commend to you the Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate. The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate is the last of several apostolates which the late, most beloved, Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Established for the purpose of fulfilling the directives of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council.

The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate takes as its charter the Decree on Social Communications of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, *Inter Mirifica*. It helps parishes and other ecclesiastical institutions to use the media in as many ways as possible to communicate the Church’s teaching. Even though the Apostolate is very young, I, as Archbishop of Saint Louis, have already enjoyed the highly qualified assistance of the Apostolate in promoting the movie, *Thérèse*, in the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. Also, I look forward to working with the Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate in promoting a more complete observance of World Communications Day, in accord with the mind of our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

Those who direct and carry out the work of the Apostolate faithful to the example of the founder, are strictly united with our Holy Father and seek only to serve the Church, especially through the fostering of the fitting use of the communications media.

Asking God’s blessing upon the Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate, I am

Yours devotedly in Christ,

(Most Rev.) Raymond L. Burke
Archbishop of Saint Louis
April 19, 2004

Ms. Dorie Gruss
718 Liberty Lane
Lombard, IL 60148

Dear Dorie:

Thanks for the info.

Fr. Hardon was far ahead of his time, in his analysis of the culture and in his evangelization. He drew countless persons, one by one, to a knowledge and love of Christ. But his impact is only beginning. The Father Hardon Media Apostolate will play an important role in bringing Fr. Hardon’s work to life for new generations.

Please feel free to use this any way you want. And please keep up the great work..

Sincerely,

Charles E. Rice
Professor Emeritus of Law

CER/lp
Dear Dorie,

This letter serves to endorse the Father John A. Hardon Media Apostolate, which seeks to promote the moral and ethical use of the communication media.

The work of this lay apostolate is greatly needed. It is also effective, as I have observed from the group’s activities at St. John Cantius. Such as our inaugural observation of World Communications Day. This event alone helped call the attention of hundreds of parishioners and visitors to the importance of careful consumption of the media and to the principles outlined in *Inter Mirifica*, the 1963 Papal Decree on the Media of Social Communications.

I recommend that other parishes create similar lay apostolates, to advance this work.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. C. Frank Phillips, C.R.
What is the Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate?

Fr. Burns K. Seeley, S.S.J.C., Ph.D.

The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate, inspired by the late Fr. Hardon, exists to promote the Catholic use of all of the media of social communications such as the printed word, television, radio, cinema, and the Internet. As we all know the social communications media are extremely powerful agents for presenting ideas that can and have revolutionized basic human beliefs and inspired actions affecting the entire human race for good and for ill.

As we are also all well-aware, it is not the Catholic Church, or Christianity in general, which controls most of the communications media today. Rather it is what is generally known as "secular humanism." That is, it is a philosophy which is atheistic. A philosophy in which God and His Church have no place. It is without God.

It is no secret that secular humanism, through the use of the communications media, has shaped the thinking and attitudes of hundreds of millions who were once Christian, but now, because of the acceptance of the ideas of secular humanism, no longer are. This, in turn, has caused a chain reaction from parents to children, from children to other children, from universities to grammar schools to the man on the street.

The one area in which secular humanism has made its greatest impact is in influencing people to accept principles of sexual behavior which counter both the good of individuals and of society at large. This is so true that much of what used to be called Christendom is disappearing from the face of the earth. In its place are formerly Christian countries which have failed to propagate enough children – and children in two parent homes – to replace all the elderly who are dying. Sexual activity has become far divorced from marriage and reproduction. Traditional marriage is becoming a dying institution. Sex for pleasure alone is reigning supreme.

It should not be surprising that once the Catholic Church's unchangeable teaching on sexuality is rejected, then other aspects of her doctrine are also called into question and rejected, especially those which directly affect proper human conduct.

Make no doubt about it, the world desperately needs Jesus Christ and His Bride the Catholic Church. And this is why the Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate exists – to let the world know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. And that His Church conveys the means for its salvation and sanctification. In other words the world needs to be evangelized and catechized. Rather it must be evangelized and catechized. This implies that the modern means of social communications must be put at the service of the Church. They must no longer remain the sole, or almost sole, custody of secular humanism.

The Second Vatican Council document Inter Mirifica addresses itself to this need. And the Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate exists to implement this need. It strives to organize the laity in parishes and groups of parishes throughout the world to take on the massive undertaking of evangelizing and catechizing via the social communications media. It is already beginning to do so in St. John Cantius Parish in Chicago. Parishioners are organizing themselves. There are, for example, writers, computer and Internet people, a Website, a speakers bureau, a media watchdog group, a prayer warriors committee, a cinema rating committee, and a letters to editors and media producers committee.
These groups meet monthly as does the board of directors. But as Father Hardon never tired of saying "There is lots of work to be done."

We are confident that since this is what the Church asks of us, and since we have the pledge of divine grace, we will be able to place the means of social communications in her service to a significant and noteworthy degree for the salvation and sanctification of many, many souls.

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INTRODUCTION

1. Among the wonderful technological discoveries which men of talent, especially in the present era, have made with God's help, the Church welcomes and promotes with special interest those which have a most direct relation to men's minds and which have uncovered new avenues of communicating most readily news, views and teachings of every sort. The most important of these inventions are those media which, such as the press, movies, radio, television and the like, can, of their very nature, reach and influence, not only individuals, but the very masses and the whole of human society, and thus can rightly be called the media of social communication.

2. The Church recognizes that these media, if properly utilized, can be of great service to mankind, since they greatly contribute to men's entertainment and instruction as well as to the spread and support of the Kingdom of God. The Church recognizes, too, that men can employ these media contrary to the plan of the Creator and to their own loss. Indeed, the Church experiences maternal grief at the harm all too often done to society by their evil use. Hence, this sacred Synod, attentive to the watchful concern manifested by the Supreme Pontiffs and Bishops in a matter of such great importance, judges it to be its duty to treat of the principal questions linked with the media of social communication. It trusts, moreover, that the teaching and regulations it thus sets forth will serve to promote, not only the eternal welfare of Christians, but also the progress of all mankind.

CHAPTER I

ON THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH

3. The Catholic Church, since it was founded by Christ our Lord to bear salvation to all men and thus is obliged to preach the Gospel, considers it one of its duties to announce the Good News of salvation also with the help of the media of social communication and to instruct men in their proper use.

It is, therefore, an inherent right of the Church to have at its disposal and to employ any of these media insofar as they are necessary or useful for the instruction of Christians and all its efforts for the welfare of souls. It is the duty of Pastors to instruct and guide the faithful so that they, with the help of these same media, may further the salvation and perfection of themselves and of the entire human family. In addition, the laity especially must strive to instill a human and Christian spirit into these media, so that they may fully measure up to the great expectations of mankind and to God's design.

4. For the proper use of these media it is most necessary that all who employ them be acquainted with the norms of morality and conscientiously put them into practice in this area. They must look, then, to the nature of what is communicated, given the special character of each of these media. At the same time they must take into consideration the entire situation or circumstances, namely, the persons, place, time and other conditions under which communication takes place and which can affect or totally change its propriety. Among these circumstances to be considered is the precise manner in which a given medium achieves its effect. For its influence can be so great that men, especially if they are unprepared, can scarcely become aware of it, govern its impact, or, if necessary, reject it.
5. It is, however, especially necessary that all parties concerned should adopt for themselves a proper moral outlook on the use of these media, especially with respect to certain questions that have been vigorously aired in our day.

The first question has to do with "information," as it is called, or the search for and reporting of the news. Now clearly this has become most useful and very often necessary for the progress of contemporary society and for achieving closer links among men. The prompt publication of affairs and events provides every individual with a fuller, continuing acquaintance with them, and thus all can contribute more effectively to the common good and more readily promote and advance the welfare of the entire civil society. Therefore, in society men have a right to information, in accord with the circumstances in each case, about matters concerning individuals or the community. The proper exercise of this right demands, however, that the news itself that is communicated should always be true and complete, within the bounds of justice and charity. In addition, the manner in which the news is communicated should be proper and decent. This means that in both the search for news and in reporting it, there must be full respect for the laws of morality and for the legitimate rights and dignity of the individual. For not all knowledge is helpful, but "it is charity that edifies."(1)

6. The second question deals with the relationship between the rights, as they are called, of art and the norms of morality. Since the mounting controversies in this area frequently take their rise from false teachings about ethics and esthetics, the Council proclaims that all must hold to the absolute primacy of the objective moral order, that is, this order by itself surpasses and fittingly coordinates all other spheres of human affairs—the arts not excepted—even though they be endowed with notable dignity. For man who is endowed by God with the gift of reason and summoned to pursue a lofty destiny, is alone affected by the moral order in his entire being. And likewise, if man resolutely and faithfully upholds this order, he will be brought to the attainment of complete perfection and happiness.

7. Finally, the narration, description or portrayal of moral evil, even through the media of social communication, can indeed serve to bring about a deeper knowledge and study of humanity and, with the aid of appropriately heightened dramatic effects, can reveal and glorify the grand dimensions of truth and goodness. Nevertheless, such presentations ought always to be subject to moral restraint, lest they work to the harm rather than the benefit of souls, particularly when there is question of treating matters which deserve reverent handling or which, given the baneful effect of original sin in men, could quite readily arouse base desires in them.

8. Since public opinion exercises the greatest power and authority today in every sphere of life, both private and public, every member of society must fulfill the demands of justice and charity in this area. As a result, all must strive, through these media as well, to form and spread sound public opinion.

9. All who, of their own free choice, make use of these media of communications as readers, viewers or listeners have special obligations. For a proper choice demands that they fully favor those presentations that are outstanding for their moral goodness, their knowledge and their artistic or technical merit. They ought, however, to void those that may be a cause or occasion of spiritual harm to themselves, or that can lead others into danger through base example, or that hinder desirable presentations and promote those that are evil. To patronize such presentations, in most instances, would merely reward those who use these media only for profit. In order that those who make use of these media may fulfill the moral code, they ought not to neglect to inform themselves in time about judgments passed by authorities competent in these matters. They ought also to follow such judgments according to the norms of an upright conscience. So that they may more easily resist improper inducements and rather encourage those that are desirable, let them take care to guide and instruct their consciences with suitable aids.

10. Those who make use of the media of communications, especially the young, should take steps to accustom themselves to moderation and self-control in their regard. They should, moreover, endeavor to deepen their
understanding of what they see, hear or read. They should discuss these matters with their teachers and experts, and learn to pass sound judgements on them. Parents should remember that they have a most serious duty to guard carefully lest shows, publications and other things of this sort, which may be morally harmful, enter their homes or affect their children under other circumstances.

11. The principle moral responsibility for the proper use of the media of social communication falls on newsmen, writers, actors, designers, producers, displayers, distributors, operators and sellers, as well as critic and all others who play any part in the production and transmission of mass presentations. It is quite evident what gravely important responsibilities they have in the present day when they are in a position to lead the human race to good or to evil by informing or arousing mankind.

Thus, they must adjust their economic, political or artistic and technical aspects so as never to oppose the common good. For the purpose of better achieving this goal, they are to be commended when they join professional associations, which—even under a code, if necessary, of sound moral practice-oblige their members to show respect for morality in the duties and tasks of their craft.

They ought always to be mindful, however, that a great many of their readers and audiences are young people, who need a press and entertainment that offer them decent amusement and cultural uplift. In addition, they should see to it that communications or presentations concerning religious matters are entrusted to worthy and experienced hands and are carried out with fitting reverence.

12. The public authority, in these matters, is bound by special responsibilities in view of the common good, to which these media are ordered. The same authority has, in virtue of its office, the duty of protecting and safeguarding true and just freedom of information, a freedom that is totally necessary for the welfare of contemporary society, especially when it is a question of freedom of the press. It ought also to encourage spiritual values, culture and the fine arts and guarantee the rights of those who wish to use the media. Moreover, public authority has the duty of helping those projects which, though they are certainly most beneficial for young people, cannot otherwise be undertaken.

Lastly, the same public authority, which legitimately concerns itself with the health of the citizenry, is obliged, through the promulgation and careful enforcement of laws, to exercise a fitting and careful watch lest grave damage befall public morals and the welfare of society through the base use of these media. Such vigilance in no wise restricts the freedom of individuals or groups, especially where there is a lack of adequate precaution on the part of those who are professionally engaged in using these media.

Special care should be taken to safeguard young people from printed matter and performances which may be harmful at their age.

CHAPTER II

ON THE PASTORAL ACTIVITY OF THE CHURCH

13. All the children of the Church should join, without delay and with the greatest effort in a common work to make effective use of the media of social communication in various apostolic endeavors, as circumstances and conditions demand. They should anticipate harmful developments, especially in regions where more urgent efforts to advance morality and religion are needed.

Pastors should hasten, therefore, to fulfill their duty in this respect, one which is intimately linked with their ordinary preaching responsibility. The laity, too, who have something to do with the use of these media, should endeavor to bear witness to Christ, first of all by carrying out their individual duties or office expertly and with
an apostolic spirit, and, further, by being of direct help in the pastoral activity of the Church—to the best of their ability—through their technical, economic, cultural and artistic talents.

14. First, a good press should be fostered. To instill a fully Christian spirit into readers, a truly Catholic press should be set up and encouraged. Such a press—whether immediately fostered and directed by ecclesiastical authorities or by Catholic laymen—should be edited with the clear purpose of forming, supporting and advancing public opinion in accord with natural law and Catholic teaching and precepts. It should disseminate and properly explain news concerning the life of the Church. Moreover, the faithful ought to be advised of the necessity both to spread and read the Catholic press to formulate Christian judgments for themselves on all events.

The production and showing of films that have value as decent entertainment, humane culture or art, especially when they are designed for young people, ought to be encouraged and assured by every effective means. This can be done particularly by supporting and joining in projects and enterprises for the production and distribution of decent films, by encouraging worthwhile films through critical approval and awards, by patronizing or jointly sponsoring theaters operated by Catholic and responsible managers.

Similarly, effective support should be given to good radio and television programs, above all those that are suitable for families. Catholic programs should be promoted, in which listeners and viewers can be brought to share in the life of the Church and learn religious truths. An effort should also be made, where it may be necessary, to set up Catholic stations. In such instances, however, care must be taken that their programs are outstanding for their standards of excellence and achievement.

In addition, there should be an effort to see that the noble and ancient art of the drama, which now is diffused everywhere by the media of social communication, serves the cultural and moral betterment of audiences.

15. To provide for the needs just set forth, priests, religious and laymen who are equipped with the proper skills for adapting these media to the objectives of the apostolate should be appointed promptly.

Importantly, laymen ought to be afforded technical, doctrinal and moral training. For this purpose, the number of school faculties and institutes should be increased, where newsmen, writers for screen, radio and television and all other interested parties can obtain a sound training that is imbued with the Christian spirit, especially with respect to the social teaching of the Church.

Finally, care must be taken to prepare literary, film, radio, television and other critics, who will be equipped with the best skills in their own crafts and trained and encouraged to render judgments which always put moral issues in their proper light.

16. Since the proper use of the media of social communications which are available to audiences of different cultural backgrounds and ages, calls for instruction proper to their needs, programs which are suitable for the purpose—especially where they are designed for young people—should be encouraged, increased in numbers and organized according to Christian moral principles. This should be done in Catholic schools at every level, in seminaries and in lay apostolate groups. To speed this along catechetical manuals should present and explain Catholic teaching and regulations on this matter.

17. It is quite unbecoming for the Church’s children idly to permit the message of salvation to be thwarted or impeded by the technical delays or expenses, however vast, which are encountered by the very nature of these media. Therefore, this sacred Synod advises them of the obligation they have to maintain and assist Catholic newspapers, periodicals and film projects, radio and television programs and stations, whose principal objective is to spread and defend the truth and foster Christian influence in human society. At the same time, the Synod earnestly invites those organizations and individuals who possess financial and technical ability to support these
media freely and generously with their resources and their skills, inasmuch as they contribute to genuine culture and the apostolate.

18. Moreover, that the varied apostolates of the Church with respect to the media of social communication may be strengthened effectively, each year in every diocese of the world, by the determination of the Bishops, there should be celebrated a day on which the faithful are instructed in their responsibilities in this regard. They should be invited to pray and contribute funds for this cause. Such funds are to be expended exclusively on the promotion, maintenance and development of institutes and undertakings of the Church in this area, according to the needs of the whole Catholic world.

19. In fulfilling his supreme pastoral charge with respect to the media of social communication, the Sovereign Pontiff has at hand a special office of the Holy See. Moreover, the Fathers of the Council, freely acceding to the wish of the "Secretariat for the Supervision of Publications and Entertainment," reverently request that the Sovereign Pontiff extend the duties and competence of this office to include all media of social communication, including the press, and that experts from various countries be named to it, including laymen.

20. It will be the task of the Bishops, however, to watch over such works and undertakings in their own dioceses, to promote them and, as far as the public apostolate is concerned, to guide them, not excluding those that are under the direction of exempt religious.

21. Since an effective apostolate on a national scale calls for unity of planning and resources, this sacred Synod decrees and orders that national offices for affairs of the press, films, radio and television be established everywhere and given every aid. It will be the special task of these offices to see to it that the consciences of the faithful are properly instructed with respect to these media. Likewise they should foster and guide whatever is done by Catholics in these areas.

In each country the direction of such offices should be entrusted to a special committee of Bishops, or to a single Bishop. Moreover, laymen who are experts in Catholic teaching and in these arts or techniques should have a role in these offices.

22. Since the effectiveness of these media reaches beyond national boundaries and has an impact on individual members of the whole human family, national offices should co-operate among themselves on an international plane. The offices spoken of in Number 21 should assiduously work together with their own international Catholic associations. These Catholic international associations are legitimately approved by the Holy See alone and depend on it.

APPENDICES

23. So that the general principles and norms of this sacred Synod with respect to the media of social communications may be put into effect, by the express will of the Council, the office of the Holy See mentioned in Number 19 should undertake, with the assistance of experts from various countries, to issue a pastoral instruction.

24. As for the rest, this sacred Synod is confident that its issuance of these instructions and norms will be gladly accepted and religiously kept by all the Church's children. By using these helps they will experience no harm and, like salt and light, they will give savor to the earth and brighten the world. Moreover, the Synod invites all men of good will, especially those who have charge of these media, to strive to turn them solely to the good of society, whose fate depends more and more on their proper use. Thus, as was the case with ancient works of art, the name of the Lord may be glorified by these new discoveries in accordance with those words of the Apostle: "Jesus Christ, yesterday and today, and the same forever."(2)
NOTES

(1) Corinthians 8:1.

(2) Hebrews 13:8.
We address you, dear brothers and sons, as World Communications Day, which will be held for the first time on Sunday, Seventh of May, approaches.

The Church, realizing "that she is truly and intimately linked with mankind and its history" (1), wishes by means of this initiative, proposed by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, to draw the attention of her children and of all men of good will to the vast and complex phenomenon of the modern means of social communication, such as the press, motion pictures, radio and television, which form one of the most characteristic notes of modern civilization.

Thanks to these wonderful techniques, man's social life has taken on new dimensions: time and space have been conquered, and man has become as it were a citizen of the world, sharing in and witnessing the most remote events and the vicissitudes of the whole human race. As the Council has said, "we can already speak of a true social and cultural transformation; one which has repercussions on man's religious life as well" (2) To this transformation the means of social communication have greatly contributed, at times in a decisive manner, we are even now nearing new, amazing developments, such as that of world-wide television through artificial satellites. In all this we see the unfolding and the realization of a wonderful plan of God's providence, which opens to man's genius ever new ways of achieving his perfection and of attaining to his final end.

One must therefore, give full credit, at its true worth, to the contribution made by the press, motion pictures, radio and television as well as the other instruments of social communication, to the enrichment of culture, to the spread of various artistic forms, to recreation, to mutual knowledge and understanding among peoples and also towards the spread of the Gospel message.

However, while the magnitude of this phenomenon, which now embraces both individuals and the whole community of man, is reason for admiration and satisfaction, it also gives cause for reflection and concern. These instruments, as it happens, destined as they are by their very nature to spread thought, human expression, the image, information and publicity, not only act on public opinion and, consequently, on the modes of thought and action of individuals and social groups, but also bring pressure to bear upon minds, leaving their deep mark upon the mentality and the conscience of man who is being pressed and almost overpowered by a multiplicity of contradictory appeals.

One cannot ignore the danger and the damage which these means, however noble in themselves, can inflict upon individuals and society when they are not employed by man with a sense of responsibility, with an honest intent and in conformity with the objective moral order.

The greater, in fact, the power and the ambivalent efficacy of these means, the greater must be the care and the responsibility with which they are to be employed.
It is therefore with sentiments of esteem and friendship and the certainty that we are interpreting the expectations and anxieties of honest men everywhere, that we address all who are devoting their ability and their work to this sensitive and important sector of modern life. We entertain the hope that the noble service, which they are called upon to render to their brothers, may always measure up to the nobility of the mission which makes them intercessaries and, as it were masters and guides, between the truth and the public, the reality of the exterior world and the inner reaches of conscience.

Just as they have the right not to be conditioned by undue ideological, political and economic pressures, which limit their just and responsible freedom of expression, so their speaking to the public demands a respect for the dignity of man and of society. Let every effort of theirs be directed towards spreading truth in men's minds, loyalty to what is good in their hearts and consistency in their actions. Thus they will contribute towards the uplift of humanity and will play a constructive part in the building of a new society that will be freer, more alert, more responsible, more brotherly and more noble (3).

We have particularly in mind the younger generations. Not without difficulties and at times apparent or real lapses, these are seeking to give direction to their present and future lives. They must be able to make their choices in freedom of spirit and with a sense of responsibility. Hindering or leading astray with false perspectives, their strenuous efforts would mean deceiving their just expectations, confusing their noble aspirations and killing their generous impulses.

With a fatherly heart we renew our pressing plea to the worthy members of the professional world of social communications, particularly to those among them who glory in the name of Christians, asking them to bear "witness in the cause of the "World", that in all its temporal expressions must be a faithful echo of the eternal, uncreated Word, the Word of the Father, the Light of intellects, the Truth that so ennobles us" (4).

It is necessary, however, that the efforts of the workers in the field of social communications be seconded by the united cooperation of all, for it is the responsibility of all that is put to the test: that of parents who are the first, irreplaceable educators of their children; that of teachers whose task it is to inculcate in their pupils the knowledge and understanding of the language of modern techniques, showing them how to appreciate what is put forward, how to use these means sensibly with moderation and self-discipline. The responsibility of young people is brought into play, for they are called upon in a high degree to exploit these instruments in their own personal education as well as in the promotion of brotherhood and peace among men. The public authorities to exercise their responsibility in the furtherance and the defense of the common good with due respect for true liberty. Finally, this is the concern of all readers, spectators and hearers as they are called upon to choose carefully and wisely their daily newspapers and their periodicals, their motion pictures and their broadcasts; they are to help render communication nobler and higher, more worthy, that is, of responsible and mature human beings.

Most helpful and laudable is therefore, every serious initiative that aims at forming the critical judgment of the reader and spectator, and at inducing him to evaluate the news, the ideas and the images that are presented to him, not only under the aesthetical and technical aspects, but also from the human, moral and religious point of view, bearing in mind the highest values of life.

The Church too, wishes to make her own contribution to the orderly development of the world of social communications: a contribution of inspiration, encouragement, exhortation, guidance and cooperation.
Precisely for this reason the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council has made this a subject of study: the Conciliar Decree on the Instruments of Social Communication, and the corresponding Pastoral Instruction which is now being prepared, bear witness to the Church's motherly interest in the furtherance of human values which Christianity, as it embraces them wholeheartedly, renders more vital and nobler, Christianity directs them towards the supreme end of man, bringing it about that real, fruitful moral and spiritual progress go hand in hand with remarkable technical advance.

We therefore express the hope that this "Day" may prove an occasion for a considered appeal aimed at an awakening of consciences and a united endeavor on the part of all in such an important cause. We exhort our sons and daughters to undertake generous action, in prayerful unity of intent with their Pastors and with all who are willing to give their welcome cooperation, in order that, with God's help and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, they might attain those results that the celebration of World Communications Day aims at achieving for the good of mankind.

These are the dearest hopes that we wish to manifest on the eve of the first World Communications Day, while we pray from our heart for abundant divine blessings on all who are listening to us, and on all who employ in this field their technical skill, their intellectual inspirations and their spiritual yearnings.

*From the Vatican, 7 May 1967*

**PAULUS PP. VI**

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**NOTE**

(1) *Constitutio Pastoralis de Ecclesia in mindo huius temporis prooemium*.

(2) ibid, *Expositio introductiva*.

(3) cfr. Pius XII, Discourse to the European Union Radiodiffusion; *Discorsi e Radiomessaggi*, vol. 17, p. 327.

“A great amount of dissent and turmoil has come about because of a very serious misunderstanding of the Second Vatican Council. The documents of the Second Vatican Council are excellent,” he said. “All of the documents deserve careful study and careful consideration in all their implications and all their nuances.”

He continued: “The intentions of the Popes of the council, Blessed John XXIII and Pope Paul VI, are also quite clear in their writings and speeches and in all the things they say as derivative from the council. The council in itself we consider a great act of the Holy Spirit. However, what happened was (and I speak from firsthand experience because I was in Rome at conclusion of the council) that a great number of personages and causes gathered around the council as a kind of para-council, which gave, because of their domination of the media, and incredibly wrong impression which persists even to this day, about what the council was and what it was intended to achieve.

“For example, one hears very little about the continuity of historic tradition which is inherent in the very actions of the council and in its documents, ... This para-council of advisers, experts, and non-Catholic observers bestowed on the media incredibly distorted and even totally inaccurate impressions of the council...

And Catholics must see and accept their “duty to profess again, not just with mouth and words, but with heart and soul, the Catholic faith, the profession of faith,” and Catholic laity must see with Chesterton that “there are an infinity of angles at which one can fall, but only one at which one can stand.”

“Once the Catholic faith is flaming alive in the hearts of a dedicated laity, they will be able to carry out the function that the Second Vatican Council places upon them, to bring Christ and the truth of His faith and the truth of the faith He founded into the marketplace, into the workplace, into the home and family, into the realm of politics, business, industry, commerce, the professions, arts and culture,” he concluded.
Three Components That Comprise Each Year's World Communications Day

The Announcement of the World Communications Day theme is made on September 29, the Feast of the Holy Archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, who have been designated as the patrons of those who work in radio.

The Holy Father’s Message for World Communications Day is traditionally published in conjunction with the Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, patron of writers (January 24), to allow bishops’ conferences and diocesan offices sufficient time to prepare audio, visual and other materials for national and local celebrations.

World Communications Day, the only worldwide celebration called for by the Second Vatican Council (Inter Mirifica, 1963), is celebrated in most countries, on the recommendation of the bishops of the world, on the Sunday before Pentecost in May.

For the current year’s World Communications Day theme and message from the Holy Father, visit our web site:

www.fatherhardonmedia.org/wcd.html
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

The Pastor Selects A Head Coordinator for the World Communications Day Central Coordination Committee

First the pastor must give his permission to hold a World Communications Day Media Fair. Then He will assign either an associate pastor or a deacon or a parishioner to be the Head Coordinator of the World Communications Day Central Coordination Committee. The individual chosen should be someone who has had previous background experience in the organization of events. A knowledge of what the meaning of World Communications Day is as well as the objective of what the World Communications Day Media Fair is supposed to accomplish is also important. With this in mind, the pastor directs the Head Coordinator to guide his parishioners in 1) what is the proper use of the means of social communications and 2) how to use the means of social communications to promote the Roman Catholic faith.

- Pastor directs Head Coordinator and team to review, discuss and make plans from the information in Sections 1 through 7 of this manual. Any additional ideas are welcomed.
- The size of the team would be determined by the requirement necessary to meet the needs of the parish.
- Basically, the attitude of the people involved with World Communications Day should be:

Never overlook an opportunity to proclaim Christ’s message through activities in which the general public may be interested.

Evangelization is the Goal!

This Manual is the Tool!
Formation of Committees
The Pastor, along with the World Communications Day Central Coordination Committee, oversees and approves the entire World Communications Day Media Information Fair.

THE CENTRAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF THREE CONSTITUENT PARTS:

Refer to Organization Charts WCD-001 and WCD-002.

1. **Head Coordinator** - The Central Coordination Committee is directed by a Head Coordinator who is responsible for the overall project and for the budget. This person is also responsible for keeping the Pastor informed about the status of the project.

2. **Assistant Head Coordinator** - There are two Assistant Head Coordinators assigned who create the overall plan and work with the individual table exhibit committee members to pull the project together. The Assistant Head Coordinators are responsible for:
   - The assignment of people to head each individual table exhibit committee (Formation of Committees – **Section 3**).
   - Publicity for the Media Fair (Publicity Preparations Checklist and Forms – **Section 4**).
   - Church or Organization hall preparations (Hall Preparations Checklist and Forms – **Section 5**).
   - Setting committee standards and goals and for resolving any questions from the individual table exhibit committee members (Media Table Exhibit Preparations Checklist and Forms – **Section 6**).
3. **Table Exhibit Committee Members.** The third component of the Central Coordination Committee is the individual table exhibit committee members who are responsible for their particular exhibit or display. World Communications Day Media Table Exhibit Committees are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cinema</th>
<th>Internet</th>
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<tr>
<td>Press-Print</td>
<td>Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications Career</td>
<td>Eternal Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evangelization</td>
<td>Media Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual Formation</td>
<td>Writers Guild</td>
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<td>Free Handouts</td>
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**THE CENTRAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE’S SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS**

**Make Arrangements**

- Invite any publishers or vendors you want at your event, e.g., a bookstore to do an Eternal Life table display on the World Communications Day theme.

- Invite any authors or speakers you plan to have.

- Get a current Christian movie preview DVD/VHS and poster(s) for the movie preview room along with a Big Screen TV set and determine where the room will be.

- Decide which Classic Movies will be shown on a regular TV set and where.

- Promote your WCD event.
Itemize the Media Fair’s Costs

- Make or buy table floral arrangements.
- Make or buy food for the main food table and the individual table exhibit snack foods: candy, cookies, and donuts – “hook” items to tempt visitors to linger.
- Buy 8 ½ x 11-inch plastic sign holders.
- Select a media saint and prayer for your prayer card – then get them commercially printed.
- Buy Fr. Hardon Media Apostolate brochures.
- Make and print World Communications Day programs, banners, flyers, posters and also make the table ID’s with the name of the committee exhibit (e.g. Cinema) with WCD theme art to put in the plastic holders.
- Rent white tablecloths and alternating royal blue and burgundy table skirts.
- Set a pre-determined budget for each of the media display tables.

Other Duties and Responsibilities

- Assign person or persons to man each table on World Communications Day.
- Place a donation sign and box on the entrance table.
- Display a Papal flag and an American flag next to the entrance table.
- Prepare the “Apostolate Board of Directors, Committee and Sponsor’s Credits” list for the center circular table or entrance table.

The Size of the World Communications Day Media Information Fair

There are three key factors to take into consideration before you determine the size of your Media Fair:

1. The number of volunteers who step forward to participate and their qualifications or abilities.
2. The funding available to pay for expenses incurred, such as printing, table tops and skirts, food, flowers, plastic holders, media materials, etc.
3. The lead-time or the time available to implement the plan decided upon by the Central Coordination Committee.
So, Where Do You Start?

- Get permission and support from your pastor and continue to keep him apprised of your progress throughout the planning process. Get his approval before making any commitments, incurring any expenses or contracting for any services. A priest or deacon should be involved in every aspect of oversight and planning.
- Begin to form your Central Coordination Committee in late summer for action the following spring.
- Decide on your format for the event: media fair, guest speaker, symposium, etc.
- Prepare a timeline and keep all the committees on schedule by frequent meetings and regular intra-committee communication.

The title of the Holy Father’s World Communications Day message is released on September 29th of each year. Check our website to find out what the upcoming theme will be to expedite the formation of your program:

www.fatherhardonmedia.org/wcd.html

Continue To

- Determine the purpose and objective of each exhibit and keep each on target.
- Begin doing research and preparing handout materials for every committee.
- Contact any vendors or publishers that you would like to participate at least two months prior to your event.
- Contact any authors or guest speakers as early as possible.

Once the Plan Has Been Finalized

- Determine what your expenses will be and stick firmly to the budget.
- Try to find a person or a parish group to help underwrite the cost of the project.

Venue

World Communication Day (WCD) is celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost.
Critical Needs

- The Pastor, priest(s) and parish wholeheartedly support the effort.
- Foremost among the needs are carefully selected dedicated, pro-active, innovative, committee heads who work well with others and who are prepared to take up the slack that inevitably comes into being in the planning and execution of an event of this nature. It is recommended that there be two people serving as Assistant Head Coordinators for this event.
- It is imperative that individuals with logistical and medium to large event-hosting experience be called to serve. Promotional, public relations and communications skills are needed. People with ‘connections’ – those who can obtain donations of materials and handouts are invaluable. And artistically gifted volunteers should be involved for promotion and set-up.
- And, without question, there needs to be enough ‘bodies’ to stand at the exhibits for the duration of the event. Those volunteers need to be able to answer questions related to the table being staffed.
- There can never be enough volunteers. And no one is compensated for their efforts, their time or talent. This is work for the Mother Church and for the good of our society, our communities, and our families. However, legitimate expenses incurred to develop the event must be reimbursed to the volunteers in a timely manner.

Speaker’s Bureau

The Central Coordination Committee will be provided with a list of approved speakers. They will, under the direction of their pastor, also recruit and instruct Catholics who are well trained in their Catholic faith and are in earnest to use the modern means of communications to defend and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Arrangements will be made for Catholics well formed in the Catholic faith to appear on radio and television programs to present the truth and to provide a Catholic rebuttal to various anti-Catholic positions. As representatives of the Church, bishops, priests, religious and laity are increasingly asked to write in the press, or appear on radio and television or to collaborate in the making of films.

When the media does not refrain from error, from lies, from deceit when presenting the Catholic faith, the CEO’s of the offending newspapers, television and radio networks should be contacted. The media is to ensure that religious features are entrusted to serious and competent persons and are handled with proper respect. They are to be reminded that a ‘propaganda campaign’ with a view to influence public opinion is justified only when it serves the truth, and when its objectives and methods accord with the dignity of man. It must be stressed that some types of propaganda are inadmissible. These include those that harm the public interest or allow for no public reply.
Conclusion

The options for a World Communications Day celebration are almost endless. What truly matters is that, in some way, we give recognition to the Holy Father’s message and promote use of the modern means of social communication for the enrichment of society, in conformity with the objective moral order.
St. John Cantius
World Communications Day
Organization Chart
World Communications Day

Organization Chart
Publicity Preparations
Checklist and Forms
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

PUBLICITY

The Head Coordinator/Chairman will create a Publicity committee to identify organizations that can benefit or assist with Word Communication Day (WCD) Media Information Fair (Parishes, Catholic organizations, i.e., Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women/Men’s organizations, Catholic Home School groups, Catholic newspapers, etc).

DUTIES OF THE HEAD COORDINATOR/CHAIRMAN

1. Establish media committee consisting of four or more chairmen. Delegate various media assignments, i.e., Secretary, Newspaper Chairman, Radio Chairman and Television Chairman.
2. On September 29th the Feast Day of Archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, the Holy Father announces the theme for World Communications Day (WCD) for the coming year, to be celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost.
3. Two months before WCD consult with each media committee chairman to determine the most favorable newspapers, radio stations and television channels to contact.
4. Contact bookstores for distribution of flyers announcing event, i.e., speakers, audio and visual displays.
DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary is to establish and maintain an Information Folder containing pertinent information relating to each of the four or more Media Committees.

1. The secretary should be in charge of sending notices to pastors containing information regarding the event and a request that the information be placed in the bulletins weekly for one month prior to the event.
2. Prepare Media Packet for each media representative attending the event.
3. Clip local newspaper articles for the media folder and give to Head Coordinator. Press articles should be mounted on 8-1/2 x 11 paper showing names of paper and date. These can be displayed on WCD and saved for future events.
4. Create a Media Packet, which should include biographical information on each speaker.
5. Give frequent status report to Head Coordinator/Chairman.

DUTIES OF THE NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

1. Contact key Newspaper persons.
2. Prepare news releases; make copies for paper.
3. Send releases to newspapers **WEEKLY** for three weeks prior to event. Send a new/different article each week with a little more information about highlights, etc.
4. Send photos when possible.
5. Always follow up with a phone call and an invitation for a reporter and photographer to attend WCD.

DUTIES OF THE RADIO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

1. Select a suitable spokesman(s) for a radio interview.
2. Contact key radio personnel to arrange for a speaker for their program.
3. Prepare typed speech and itinerary for each speaker (right message is imperative).
4. Provide copies of speech and itinerary for radio host, head coordinator and secretary file. (See Sample Q & A for Radio/Television Interviews-Section 4, Number 5).
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Contact Newspaper, Radio and TV stations in the area at least six weeks in advance of WCD.
2. Inquire if written scripts or tapes are preferred and the time frame required.
3. Prepare the requested script or tape.
4. Send Public Service Announcement (PSA) to station(s) at the specified times.
5. Follow up with phone call.

TALK SHOWS

1. Contact speaker(s) six weeks in advance.
2. Provide all event details for the host and speaker.
3. Authenticate approval/permission for the speaker.
4. Validate time slot with the speaker, the host and the radio manager.
5. If possible, have program taped.
6. Follow-up with thank you and compliments to the station manager and or host.

DUTIES OF THE TELEVISION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

1. Seek out suitable, articulate individuals for television interview.
2. Contact your local community television station to set up an appointment for an interview.
3. Prepare questions concerning World Communication Day (WCD) for the interviewer (See Sample Q & A for Radio/Television Interviews-Section 4, Number 5).
4. Provide copies of the questions and answers for television host, head coordinator and secretary to file.
6. Follow-up results interview.
7. Send appropriate thank you and compliments to the station manager and or host.
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Contact local channels six weeks in advance of the event.
2. Determine what PSA requirements and length of message needed for a videotape/DVD.
3. Coordinate so that several copies of same tape can be made and used.
4. Hand deliver tapes/DVD’s and follow up with a phone call.
5. One month before event, provide the parish office with the dates and times the interviews will air so that notices can be placed in the Church bulletins.
6. Make announcements to organizations:
   O Parish Community i.e., all organizations
      a. Knights of Columbus
      b. CCW (Women’s Organization)
      c. CCD/RCIA/Youth Group (Religious Education)
      d. Choir
   O Local Community organizations
      a. Senior Citizen group
      b. Police and Firemen group
      c. Library
      d. Civic Center
7. Request permission to place information in ALL Bookstores.
8. Make effort to extend “personal invitations” to others.
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Suggested Uses for Publicity Quotes

The following quotes from Fr. John A. Hardon S.J. on the media may be used in parish bulletins, on flyers and/or on tables as handouts or just set up as a sign – one or two quotes per sign per table.

For more media quotes, visit the Father Hardon Media Apostolate website at:

http://www.fatherhardonmedia.org/mediaquotes.html
Quotes From Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.
On The Media

Modern Media:

The Second Vatican Council identified these media as the press, the cinema, radio, television, and other of like nature. Rightly called the means of social communications.

Compelling Power:

The Church knows that these media “can have such compelling power that people, especially if they are not prepared, may scarcely be able to recognize it or control it or when necessary, to reject it”.

Most Neglected:

Only the Lord knows why the document on social communication, Inter Mirifica, has been the most neglected of the sixteen documents of the Second Vatican Council.

Dishonest Attacks:

Because of the unceasing ferocious, dishonest attacks against the Catholic Church and its teaching, Catholics must enter the media on all levels.

Wake Up:

Catholics have to wake up to their grave responsibility in the modern world. They must be aroused from their sleep, their lethargy, in allowing the media to be mainly untapped for the extension of Christ’s Kingdom in our day.
**Change:**

From Pope Paul VI to Pope John Paul II, the popes have wanted Catholics to change that (to): “The modern media are engaged in a Christlike, shall I use the word, conspiracy, for the truth.”

**Reform:**

The Holy See requested that more good Catholics become involved and reform the media.

**Truth:**

We define “truth” as conformity of the mind with reality. Must we not say that the evil spirit is demonically successful in deceiving whole nations by filling their minds with lies!

**Feelings: Faith, Truth verses Feelings:**

To let people think that the faith is only a means of feelings is lethal. Yes, deadly.

**Indifferent:**

You may not be indifferent with the truth.

**Speak:**

Speak out when the time is right. Do not hide your wisdom, for speech makes wisdom known, and all that a man has learned appears in his words.

**Right:**

One loses one’s right to communicate if one does not tell the truth.
Others:

Before dealing with others, spend time in silence with God.

The Needs of the Church:

There is nothing that the Catholic Church in our nation needs more than a deeper and clearer understanding of the Catholic Faith. Nothing less than the survival of the Catholic Church in our country is at stake. I am deeply grateful to you – what you are doing to promote a clear understanding to the faith we profess.

To Combat Heresy and Dissidence:

1. Reflect
2. Consult
3. Pray
4. Decide. And now the matter is closed.

Wrong Use:

The Council recognizes that these media, for all their potential as channels of grace, can be used “in ways that are contrary to the Creator’s design, and damaging to man himself.”

Impact:

The devastating impact of the mass media on the Christian faith of millions – behind this influence is the simple fact, that those who control the media, in large measure, have the political and financial power of a practical monopoly.
**Evangelization Affected:**

Not to know how the Church’s evangelization is being affected by the modern media, is not to realize that the media are part of God’s universal (with stress on the universal) plan of salvation.

**Access to Catechesis:**

What needs to be stressed and reemphasized is that the new media have given us access to evangelization and catechesis that the modern world so desperately needs.

**One World Movement:**

There is talk about the new age that will reunite a dismembered world. And powerful forces alien to Christ are mobilizing in this one world movement.

**Unify:**

We must capitalize on this obvious need to unify a dismembered human family. There is only one effective means of doing this through propagating the Gospel of the Savior.

**Church’s Duty:**

The Church founded by Christ has this duty, binding under the pain of sin, to exploit the modern media of communication. Contrast this with the practical absence of Catholic evangelization by the media in most countries, and we begin to see the monumental task that lies ahead.
InterMirifica’s Hard Conclusions

The Church has a right to use these media which, she considers necessary or even useful for the formation of Christians and for pastoral activity.

- The Church has a right to own these media.
- Bishop and priests have the duty to instruct and direct the faithful on how to use these media.
- The media are to be used for the salvation and perfection of both believing Christians and of all mankind.
- The laity have the principal responsibility to animate the media with a Christian and human spirit.
Sample Questions and Answers for Radio and Television Interviews

QUESTION:
What is World Communications Day?

ANSWER:
World Communications Day is the day designated, by the Pope, every year since 1967 to improve social communications through the use of the media. It is celebrated in many countries on the Sunday before Pentecost.

Since 1967, the First World Communications Day, the Pope has announced the theme on September 29 for the coming year. September 29 is the feast of the Holy Archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. They are the designated patron saints of those who work in radio.

The theme for this year is “______________________________”
QUESTION:

What are some of the other themes that the Pope(s) has issued for WCD?

ANSWER

View the themes from other years
(see www.fatherhardonmedia.org/wcd.html for this answer).

QUESTION:

Does the Pope elaborate on the theme?

ANSWER:

Yes. Every January 24th, the Holy Father’s message is published to allow Bishop’s and Diocesan Offices sufficient time to prepare materials for public announcements.

QUESTION:

What might one find on say, the Radio table? The Television table?

ANSWER:

Mention the items that are listed in the manual for these tables and anything special that your parish is offering, i.e. handouts.
QUESTION:

What is World Communications Day supposed to accomplish?

ANSWER:

This is best described in the mission statement of the Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate;

The World Communications Day Committee, under the direction of a chairman, will develop a three-part instructional program to be used by parishes that will:

1. Educate their parishioners and community on the values of the meaning of “quality media.”
2. Teach sound methods to effectively counteract negative and/or immoral issues of the media.
3. Give tools that will create a demand for “quality media”.

QUESTION:

Who are you inviting to attend this World Communications Day?

ANSWER:

The appeal, the invitation, for the celebration of World Communications Day is made to three important groups:

1. Professionals and leaders with talent or expertise in the social communications
2. Industry in the community; that would include all ministers of all the local denominations, all of the people in the communications business, i.e., newspaper, radio, television, cinema.
3. The general population; parents, teachers, students, “every reader, every spectator.”
QUESTION:

Exactly how do you present the truth to get this message of “quality media” out? Do you give a lecture? Show a movie? What can those who attend expect to find?

ANSWER:

We don’t give a lecture. We don’t show a movie. What our guests will find is an exhibit. There will be tables set up representing each of the media, newspaper/periodicals/books, radio, television, cinema, internet, etc. Positive presentations of the truth and morals will be displayed. There will be audio and visual displays. The tables will each have a host/hostess to answer questions and there will be handouts. Young and old, adults and children will come away enlightened. The truth and that which is moral and wholesome is for everyone. Everyone in the whole community is invited.

“THERE IS NO ATTENDANCE FEE”

QUESTION:

What is the day, time and place? And do people have to register or RSVP?

ANSWER:

You do not have to register or RSVP, just bring family and friends.

WHEN__________________________________________________________

WHERE________________________________________________________

TIME__________________________________________________________

Bring your question; the answers will be provided.
Question:

Who do you trust to guide your family to the movies that are 1) non-violent, 2) clean, 3) entertaining, 4) educational, 5) worth your time and money to watch?

Find the answer to this and other timely questions right here at our Parish on World Communications Day.
Question:

How can you respond when you read an anti-Catholic editorial or article in a newspaper or magazine, or find your family unintentionally watching a morally offensive or historically inaccurate program on TV?

Find the answer to this and other timely questions right here at our Parish on World Communications Day.

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Question:

Where do you go to find good literature, written to feed the mind, the heart and the soul of your family?

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Question:

How do you answer that “knock at the door” when you know it is a group of Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses or other anti-Catholic group wanting to convert your family from the Truth, the Way and the Life?

Find the answer to this and other timely questions right here at our Parish on World Communications Day.

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Question:

How do you answer that “knock at the door” when you know it is a group of Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses or other anti-Catholic group wanting to convert your family from the Truth, the Way and the Life?

Find the answer to this and other timely questions right here at our Parish on World Communications Day.
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY
MEDIA FAIR
Sunday: 23 May 2004
St. John Cantius Church; Chicago, IL
THE FR. JOHN A. HARDON, S.J. MEDIA APOSTOLATE
will host an exhibit in the Parish Hall
for the purpose of
communicating the importance of Catholic involvement
in the proper use and promotion of the various forms of Media
in our daily life.

Our Holy Father, John Paul II, has designated Sunday (May 23, 2004) as:
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY
Based upon the Theme: The Media and the Family: A Risk and a Richness
This theme brings into focus the much needed reflection on the realities of the enormous influence the media of social communications has upon motivating the attitudes and actions of individuals and families to include all other segments of society. We are therefore invited not only to reflect upon, but indeed to also act upon, three fundamental issues:

The varied use families make of the media.
The way families and family concerns are being treated by the media.
And how do we respond to and influence these two situations.

The printed word, radio, television, film and the electronic forms of media profoundly influences our attitudes and actions encountered in our daily lives. Their impact is manifested not only through individuals and families, but indeed in all inter-related cultural, religious, political, and economic aspects of society as a whole - for better or for worse.

This Media Fair is being presented to address these issues. This is in response to a call from His Holiness to all Catholics for renewed Evangelization in the Church and its extension into the world. This is a universal call to promote the following through the proper use of the media inherent in addressing these fundamental issues:

**Evangelization:**
A deeper conversion and reaffirmation of our Faith;
Protecting and proclaiming Catholic values and teachings; and to
Strengthening our catechesis and commitment to knowing, proclaiming and living
the Gospel message of Christ in our daily life.

Knowing how the media distorts the truth, and what effect this has upon your family.
Discover some of the media resources available for family-friendly viewing, reading and listening.

**Learn how:**
To make proper use of the various forms of the media.
To make your voice heard when the media is socially irresponsible and
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To defend the Catholic Faith, and how
To evangelize through the media.

It is also essential to point out Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. (1914-2000) was tireless in motivating the proper use of all forms of social communications to teach the Catholic Faith, especially when directed towards enriching family life and in evangelizing the world. This is made evident by the fact he was a prolific author, teacher, public speaker, and learned theologian who utilized the media in his unwavering defense of the Faith. He emphasized the importance of all forms of media in serving this purpose. He was ahead of his time in the analysis of the impact the media of social communication would have upon evangelization and related societal issues. This Apostolate receives its inspiration and formation from the works of Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. in implementing the directives of the Vatican documents on social communications.

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How You Can Become Part of this Most Important Work

- Become a member of the Media Apostolate.
- Pray for the success of this mission.
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Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
Media Apostolate

Renewal of the Media
truth, common good and human dignity

PROPER USE OF THE MEDIA

“The unity and advancement of men living in society: these are the chief aims of social communication and of the means it uses...the way men live and think is profoundly affected by the means of communication....social communication can contribute a great deal to human unity. If, however, men’s minds and hearts are ill disposed, if good will is not there, this outpouring of technology may produce an opposite effect, so that there is less understanding and discord, and as a result evils are multiplied. Too often we have to contradict or corrupt the fundamental values of life.”

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Catholics have to wake up to their grave responsibility in the modern world; they must be aroused from their sleep of lethargy in allowing the media to be mainly untapped for the extension of Christ’s Kingdom in our day.”

-Pastoral Instruction on the Means of Social Communication, Communio et Progressio, January 29, 1971

FatherHardonmedia

www.fatherhardonmedia.org
Apostles to the Media

Following Rome’s call

The Father John A. Hardon, S.J., Media Apostolate is an organization of lay and religious who recognize the Vatican’s call to evangelization of and through the media of social communication. The Apostolate exists to motivate the faithful to use all the means of social communication to evangelize the world and to teach the Catholic Faith in full submission to the magisterium of the bishops of Rome and all the bishops in union with him as their Head.

“The Church recognizes that the media, if properly utilized, can be of great service to mankind”
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The practical means and applications that the Apostolate employs to carry out this mission include:

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The Media Apostolate is not a vocation to which only a few are called. It is, however, an integral part of our baptismal vocation—the universal call to holiness. As the modern media reach to the ends of the earth, so also must the message of the Gospel.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”
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The Gospel message stays the same but the world is ever changing. Pope John Paul II said “I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church’s energies to a new evangelization.” (Redemptoris Missio, 1990). The Church has called us to use all forms of communication to spread the Gospel message.

Father John Hardon

Father John Hardon was tireless in the service of God. A prolific author, theologian, solid defender of the faith, and devoted teacher, he was always loyal to the Magisterium of the Church and the Holy Father. Father Hardon desired that a Catholic lay apostolate be formed to implement the directives of the Vatican II document, Inter Mirifica.
Our Right to the Truth

“We have a right to the truth because, without the truth, we cannot be at peace in this life, nor reach our heavenly destiny in the life to come.

But others also have a right to the truth, and this places a heavy obligation on us to share the truth that we possess. I would go so far as to say that the most fundamental duty we have in life is to love others by giving them what others have given to us, namely, a knowledge of the truth.”

Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
World Communications Day is to be celebrated by the entire church in every parish in the world.

The Theme
The Holy Father announces the “New” theme for World Communications Day on September 29th, every year.

The Pope’s Published Message
The Holy Father’s World Communications Day message is published on January 24th, to allow Bishop’s and Diocesan Offices sufficient time to prepare materials for public announcements.

The Day of Celebration
The entire Church is to celebrate World Communications Day on the Sunday before Pentecost.

How Can My Parish Learn More about World Communications Day?
The World Communications Day Manual is your Guide for World Communications Day in your Parish.

What Information is in the World Communications Day Manual?
• The Manual includes directives for pastors and the laity.
• The Manual contains the necessary information on “HOW TO” conduct a successful celebration.
• The Manual includes specific plans for each area of the media: Cinema, Internet, Press, Radio, Telephone and Television.
• The Manual contains information, handouts and resources, to be used to promote truth in the modern media.

Where Can I Access a Copy of the World Communications Day Manual?
Download The Manual Free Of Charge by visiting online http://www.fatherhardonmedia.org/wcd.html
A Catholic Lay Apostolate

OUR MISSION

The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate was formed at the urging of the late Father John A. Hardon, S.J. to implement the directives of Inter Mirifica, the Vatican II document on social communications. The Apostolate exists to motivate the faithful to use all the means of social communications to evangelize the world and to teach the Catholic Faith. This implies a full submission to the magisterium of the Bishop of Rome and the Bishops in union with him as their Head.

How Can You Become Part of This Important Work?

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Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
Media Apostolate
7030 W. 63rd Street
Chicago, Illinois 60638
Tel: 773-586-7829
www.fatherhardonmedia.org

in accordance with Vatican II document Inter Mirifica
A tireless worker, Father Hardon continually strove to do God’s work and did so in the spirit of the pious, selfless and indefatigable Jesuit priests of great renown. A prolific author, learned theologian, unwavering defender of the faith, and devoted teacher, he was ever loyal to the Magisterium of the church and the Vicar of Christ. During his life he evangelized and converted many souls to God. He assisted the formation of many religious societies and lay apostolates, authored over 200 books, authored catechisms and text books, and contributed heavily to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Years after his birth into eternal life, his guiding influence continues to be felt.

Father Hardon desired a Catholic lay apostolate be formed to implement the directives of the Vatican II document, *Inter Mirifica*. This apostolate is to evangelize by the proper use of the means of social communication – the media. Thus the Apostolate promotes the teaching of the Catholic Church so that it may be universally known and accepted while applying it to all areas of human knowledge and concern.

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On the Means of Social Communication

The papal decree on the Media of Social Communications, *Inter Mirifica*, calls the faithful to a special Apostolate. This apostolate is the duty of every Catholic, specifically the lay person, to participate actively in the "priestly, prophetic and royal office of Christ,"* within a proper field of action. That proper field is that of the "temporal order...where people live, work and recreate."* Are not the media of social communications, such as the television, radio, written press, and the internet, the most powerful tools to carry out the Gospel message directly to "where people live, work and recreate?"

This Media Apostolate is not limited to spreading the Gospel message through the various forms of social communication. It calls all members of the Church to "instruct men in [the] proper use" † of the media. It calls for the fostering of a "good press," † and the training of critics. It urges the faithful to be "of direct help in the pastoral activity of the Church – to the best of their ability – through their technical, economic, cultural and artistic talents." † As the decree states, "the principal moral responsibility for

for the proper use of the media of social communication falls on the newsmen, writers, actors, designers, producers, displayers, distributors, operators and sellers, as well as the critic and all others who play any part in the production and transmission of mass presentations." †† In other words the Apostolate is more than gleaning the good from what is produced in the media, it is a call for owners, producers, and users to "adjust their economic, political or artistic and technical aspects so as never to oppose the common good." ††

What responsibility do we have as viewers, readers, listeners, and web-surfers? "All who, of their own free choice, make use of these media of communications...have special obligations." †† As users of the media, all must take steps to accustom themselves to moderation and self-control in their regard." ††

Indeed this papal decree, *Inter Mirifica*, touches upon much more than the seemingly narrow scope of "media apostolate." The faithful laity are reminded of their obligation to bring the Gospel message to every area of their lives and in a special way, to the "makers" of the media as well as to the users of the media. We are reminded too of the goodness of humanity and the technological advances made by man with regard to
social communications. The impact that the various and wide-ranging instruments of the media have and will continue to have on our world is immeasurable. These tools, like our human nature, must direct us toward our Baptismal destination – Heaven. Christ, through His Incarnation, supplied the grace to sanctify humanity. The proper use of the media and other technological discoveries is necessary to ensure that they sanctify our work and leisure, thus availing ourselves of the graces won for us on the Cross.

The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate is an organization of lay and religious who recognize this call to evangelization in and through the media of social communication. The practical means and applications that the Apostolate employ to carry out this mission include: instruction in the Apostolic call of Inter Mirifica; training and educational programs for the proper use, technical and moral, of all forms of media; instruction for the consumer – how to be a media-savvy critic; the distribution of educational and informational materials responding effectively to the media’s attacks on the Faith; and above all, the necessity of prayer and the sacraments as the most powerful weapons behind this great undertaking. The Media Apostolate is not a vocation to which only a few are called. It is, however, an integral part of our baptismal vocation – the universal call to holiness. As the modern media reach to the ends of the earth, so also must the message of the Gospel.

“The Catholic Church was founded by Christ our Lord to bring salvation to all men. She feels obligated, therefore, to preach the Gospel. In the same way, she believes that her task involves employing the means of social communication to announce the good news of salvation and to teach men how to use them properly.”*

* Our Sunday Visitor’s Catholic Encyclopedia
† Inter Mirifica
‡ The Urgent Call to Evangelization,
   Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Church (Organization) Hall Preparations Checklist

Please refer to the Hall Room Layout form WCD-003 to follow an example of how to hold the actual World Communications Day event.

1. Arrange tables and chairs around the hall with a circular center entryway table in the middle of the room.

2. Set up Hall World Communications Day Posters and Banners. A commercially made cloth World Communications Day Banner, measuring 3-ft. x 8-ft. printed in full color may be hung in a prominent place.

3. Decorate tables (buy or rent) as budget permits, with tablecloths and skirts. Royal blue, burgundy and white are color suggestions.

4. Place on each media table exhibit a 5x7-inch plastic sign holder with the Table ID Sign (e.g.: Cinema).

5. Individual table floral arrangements on each table - OPTIONAL.

6. Place snack trays filled with candy, donuts, or cookies on each media table exhibit.

7. Arrange the media table exhibits – see Section 6.
8. Set up the center circular media table:

- Place a large floral centerpiece in the middle of the table.

- Arrange the prayer cards, the Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate brochures, Promotional Brochures and your World Communication Day Program Books around the table centerpiece along with whatever other information packets you want to present to guests.

- Set up the two entry way flag stands with Papal and American flags on either side of the circular table.

- Set up a donation box at the front entryway center of the circular table between the two flags.

- Place the World Communications Day portrait poster and flyer forms in plastic stands on either side of the donation box between the two flags.

9. Set up a “television” room with a large screen TV with a DVD/VHS hook-up. Arrange the chairs facing the TV. For example, Luke Films provided St. John Cantius with the preview DVD of the film, “Therese of Lisieux”, promotional materials, handouts and distribution “signature sheets” to encourage attendance when the film is released and to gain greater distribution of the film before its release. This is a great way to promote the Catholic faith at your event.

Classical Catholic movie videos/DVDs for adults and children can be shown on a regular size TV set.

10. Include activities for the young children, such as a storyteller corner (Bible story with coloring sheets). Ask for recommendations and the assistance of the CCD Coordinator/Home School group.

11. Arrange to have a refreshment table – something to drink and a finger food at a comfortable distance from the main exhibit.
World Communications Day Media Fair - Table Exhibits
Sunday, May 23, 2004
St. John Cantius Parish Hall
After All Masses

World Communications Day

The Media and the Family: A Risk and A Richness
Presented by the Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.
Media Apostolate
World Communications Day

Presented by the
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.
Media Apostolate
38th World Communications Day  
Sunday, May 23, 2004

The Media and the Family: A Risk and A Richness

Our Holy Father, John Paul II, has designated Sunday, May 23, as World Communications Day. In response to the call of His Holiness to the New Evangelization, to faith and conversion, to protecting and spreading traditional Catholic family values, the Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate is hosting a special Media Fair at St. John Cantius Church, Chicago.

This year’s theme, The Media and the Family: A Risk and A Richness, brings into focus the realities of the enormous influence the media of social communications has upon motivating the attitudes and actions of individuals, families and society as a whole.

Radio, television, film, print and electronic forms of media profoundly influence our attitudes and actions—for better or for worse.

The World Communications Day “Media Fair” is intended to
• Equip individuals and families with simple—yet highly effective—tools they can use to counter attacks on the Catholic Faith
• Offer sound media resources for family-friendly viewing, reading and listening
• Strengthen our catechesis and commitment to the Holy Father’s call for renewed Evangelization in the Church and its extension into the world

We hope that, through this presentation, you will learn how much power your family really has when it comes to standing up for our faith, for our values, and for our families.

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World Communications Day Exhibits

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<th>Media Response</th>
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<td>• How do I begin to write a letter in response to negative coverage in the media?</td>
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<td>• How can I determine which videos are appropriate for family viewing?</td>
<td>• What are some examples of effective letters?</td>
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<td>• What sources are their for buying good films?</td>
<td>• How do I get my letter to the appropriate people?</td>
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<th>Evangelization through the Media</th>
<th>Media Apostolate Website</th>
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<td>• How can I answer the Holy Father’s call to evangelization?</td>
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<td>• What is “World Communications Day” and how does the Holy Father’s message relate to me?</td>
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<th>Marian Catechists</th>
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<tr>
<td>• How can I spiritually prepare myself to defend the Catholic faith?</td>
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<td>• What exactly is the Marian Catechists?</td>
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<td>• Why did Fr. Hardon establish the Marian Catechists?</td>
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<td>• What do I need to do if I want to write Catholic books.</td>
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Presented by the
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate

World Communications

Sunday, May 23, 2004
St. John Cantius Parish Hall
After All Masses
St. Paul, Apostle - Pray For Us

Preach the Word: be instant in season, out of season; reprove, entreat, rebuke in all patience and doctrine.
—2 Tim. 4.2

Almighty God, Father of the Word, You chose Your Apostle, Paul, to be inspired by the Holy Spirit, making in him my example to stand fast in the Faith. May I, too, communicate the Way, the Truth and the Life found in the Gospel and may I be an instrument to inspire all media to reflect with accuracy, with courage and with fullness what is true and what is good and to reject what is false and what is evil. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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Email: billdorie@worldnet.att.net

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Chicago, IL 60638

www.fatherhardonmedia.org
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Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
“World Communications Day is to be celebrated by the entire church in every parish in the world.”

The Theme
The Holy Father announces the “New” theme for World Communications Day on September 29th, every year.

The Pope’s Published Message
The Holy Father’s World Communications Day message is published on January 24th, to allow Bishop’s and Diocesan Offices sufficient time to prepare materials for public announcements.

The Day of Celebration
The entire Church is to celebrate World Communications Day on the Sunday before Pentecost.

How Can My Parish Learn More about World Communications Day?
The World Communications Day Manual is your Guide for World Communications Day in your Parish.

What Information is in the World Communications Day Manual?
- The Manual includes directives for pastors and the laity.
- The Manual contains the necessary information on “HOW TO” conduct a successful celebration.
- The Manual includes specific plans for each area of the media: Cinema, Internet, Press, Radio, Telephone and Television.
- The Manual contains information, handouts and resources, to be used to promote truth in the modern media.

Where Can I Access a Copy of the World Communications Day Manual?
Download The Manual Free Of Charge by visiting online http://www.fatherhardonmedia.org/wcd.html
A Catholic Lay Apostolate

OUR MISSION

The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate was formed at the urging of the late Father John A. Hardon, S.J. to implement the directives of *Inter Mirifica*, the Vatican II document on social communications. The Apostolate exists to motivate the faithful to use all the means of social communications to evangelize the world and to teach the Catholic Faith. This implies a full submission to the magisterium of the Bishop of Rome and the Bishops in union with him as their Head.

How Can You Become Part of This Important Work?

✧ Become a member of the Media Apostolate.
✧ Pray for the success of this mission.
✧ Offer financial assistance.
✧ Let us assist you in the work of your local apostolates.

Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
Media Apostolate
7030 W. 63rd Street
Chicago, Illinois 60638
Tel: 773-586-7829
www.fatherhardonmedia.org

in accordance with Vatican II document *Inter Mirifica*
"Catholics have to wake up to their grave responsibility in the modern world; they must be aroused from their sleep of lethargy in allowing the media to be mainly untapped for the extension of Christ’s Kingdom in our day."

— The Urgent Call to Evangelization, Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
Catholic Faith, 1995

"The unity and advancement of men living in society: these are the chief aims of social communication and of the means it uses...the way men live and think is profoundly affected by the means of communication.

...(S)ocial communication can contribute a great deal to human unity. If, however, men’s minds and hearts are ill disposed, if good will is not there, this outpouring of technology may produce an opposite effect, so that there is less understanding and discord, and as a result evils are multiplied. Too often we have to watch social communications used to contradict or corrupt the fundamental values of human life”

— Pastoral Instruction on the Means of Social Communication
Communio et Progressio, January 29, 1971

A tireless worker, Father Hardon continually strove to do God’s work and did so in the spirit of the pious, selfless and indefatigable Jesuit priests of great renown. A prolific author, learned theologian, unwavering defender of the faith, and devoted teacher, he was ever loyal to the Magisterium of the church and the Vicar of Christ. During his life he evangelized and converted many souls to God. He assisted the formation of many religious societies and lay apostolates, authored over 200 books, authored catechisms and text books, and contributed heavily to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Years after his birth into eternal life, his guiding influence continues to be felt.

Father Hardon desired a Catholic lay apostolate be formed to implement the directives of the Vatican II document, Inter Mirifica. This apostolate is to evangelize by the proper use of the means of social communication – the media. Thus the Apostolate promotes the teaching of the Catholic Church so that it may be universally known and accepted while applying it to all areas of human knowledge and concern.
On the Means of Social Communication

The papal decree on the Media of Social Communications, Inter Mirifica, calls the faithful to a special Apostolate. This apostolate is the duty of every Catholic, specifically the lay person, to participate actively in the "priestly, prophetic and royal office of Christ,"* within a proper field of action. That proper field is that of the "temporal order...where people live, work and recreate."** Are not the media of social communications, such as the television, radio, written press, and the internet, the most powerful tools to carry out the Gospel message directly to "where people live, work and recreate?"

This Media Apostolate is not limited to spreading the Gospel message through the various forms of social communication. It calls all members of the Church to "instruct men in [the] proper use"† of the media. It calls for the fostering of a "good press,"† and the training of critics. It urges the faithful to be "of direct help in the pastoral activity of the Church – to the best of their ability – through their technical, economic, cultural and artistic talents."‡ As the decree states, "the principal moral responsibility for for the proper use of the media of social communication falls on the newsmen, writers, actors, designers, producers, displayers, distributors, operators and sellers, as well as the critic and all others who play any part in the production and transmission of mass presentations."† In other words the Apostolate is more than gleaning the good from what is produced in the media, it is a call for owners, producers, and users to "adjust their economic, political or artistic and technical aspects so as never to oppose the common good."‡

What responsibility do we have as viewers, readers, listeners, and web-surfers? "All who, of their own free choice, make use of these media of communications...have special obligations."† As users of the media, all must take steps to accustom themselves to moderation and self-control in their regard."‡

Indeed this papal decree, Inter Mirifica, touches upon much more than the seemingly narrow scope of "media apostolate." The faithful laity are reminded of their obligation to bring the Gospel message to every area of their lives and in a special way, to the "makers" of the media as well as to the users of the media. We are reminded too of the goodness of humanity and the technological advances made by man with regard to
social communications. The impact that the various and wide-ranging instruments of the media have and will continue to have on our world is immeasurable. These tools, like our human nature, must direct us toward our Baptismal destination – Heaven. Christ, through His Incarnation, supplied the grace to sanctify humanity. The proper use of the media and other technological discoveries is necessary to ensure that they sanctify our work and leisure, thus availing ourselves of the graces won for us on the Cross.

The Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate is an organization of lay and religious who recognize this call to evangelization in and through the media of social communication. The practical means and applications that the Apostolate employ to carry out this mission include: instruction in the Apostolic call of Inter Mirifica; training and educational programs for the proper use, technical and moral, of all forms of media; instruction for the consumer – how to be a media-savvy critic; the distribution of educational and informational materials responding effectively to the media’s attacks on the Faith; and above all, the necessity of prayer and the sacraments as the most powerful weapons behind this great undertaking. The Media Apostolate is not a vocation to which only a few are called. It is, however, an integral part of our baptismal vocation – the universal call to holiness. As the modern media reach to the ends of the earth, so also must the message of the Gospel.

“The Catholic Church was founded by Christ our Lord to bring salvation to all men. She feels obligated, therefore, to preach the Gospel. In the same way, she believes that her task involves employing the means of social communication to announce the good news of salvation and to teach men how to use them properly.”

* Our Sunday Visitor’s Catholic Encyclopedia
† Inter Mirifica
‡ The Urgent Call to Evangelization, Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.  
Media Apostolate

Your donations help support  
The development of this work

DONATION
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Media Table Exhibit Committees with Suggested Individual Table Exhibits

Below is a list of the different media table that may be put together by assigned committee members who are responsible for one or more exhibition tables. The Eternal Life Media Table Exhibit may be taken care of by Eternal Life (www.lifeeternal.org), an approved Catholic vendor or an approved local Catholic bookstore vendor whom you invite to display material based on the current World Communications Day theme. The Free Handouts Media Table Exhibit is a table with “no cost” items that were obtained by committee members during their search for material to use on the table exhibits.

Please note. There are six basic social communication technologies that are defined by Inter Mirifica for us to use to promote the faith:

- Cinema
- Internet
- Press-Print
- Radio
- Television

There are an infinite number of social communications that we can use to promote the faith Jesus Christ commanded us to do at the Ascension. Some are listed below as examples we use in this manual – you may use them or define your own for your World Communications Day.
"Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

---------------------------------------------

Telephone
Communications Career
Eternal Life
Evangelization
Media Response
Spiritual Formation
Writers Guild
Free Handouts

Each of the means of social communications in itself is a tool or instrument that we may use to evangelize the world. How? We control how these media are used by how we support or don’t support them. If we refuse to use any of these technologies when they promote evil and support them when they promote good, we will effectively control the means of modern social communications. And to be able to do this, we have to let the owners, producers and sponsors of these types of media know that we will reject programming that does not support our beliefs.

“See the body and see the soul with spiritual truth”. Just as you have to control your food intake to receive the proper nutrition your body needs to function well in this world so also you need to control what you see and hear to make sure you receive the truth that will lead you to your final destiny – Heaven, God and the Beatific Vision.

It’s not news that we’ve lost our control over the modern means of social communications. We need to work to get it back. We need to be heard, individually or as groups. We have to fight for what we believe and we do that, as Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. would say, by converting our little corner of a now pagan world. Support for World Communications Day is a way to educate and motivate people to regain control of the media and to use it to spread the truth.
All the following table exhibits offer specific suggestions on how to gain control of the technological means of social communications. Turn to each table listed below to get ideas on what to put on the tables you choose to use or establish your own ideas of how to evangelize the faith through the use of social communications. Feel free to use your abilities and creativity to make the parish World Communications Day a day where the media becomes a lasting instrument that will be used to bring glory to God and the Truth to His people. May the Holy Spirit inspire your parish to save souls for God on this special day established by the Church.

- Cinema Media Table Exhibit
- Internet Media Table Exhibit
- Press/Print Media Table Exhibit
- Radio Media Table Exhibit
- Television Media Table Exhibit
- Telephone Media Table Exhibit
- Communications Career Media Table Exhibit
- Evangelization Media Table Exhibit
- Media Response Table Exhibit
- Eternal Life Media Table Exhibit – (Approved bookstore vendor with items related to WCD theme)
- Spiritual Formation Media Table Exhibit
- Writers Guild Media Table Exhibit
- Free Handout Media Table Exhibit – (“no cost” items)
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

CINEMA MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

Motion pictures have a great influence on the manner of how individuals and groups think and act. Rating systems, much like those established by the Legion of Decency have been created to inform and protect the integrity of Christian morals. This is in keeping with the Vatican directive, “To protect the integrity of Christian morals, a Permanent National Office be established for supervision to encourage decent films and to give a recognized classification and to make it known.” Films identified as entirely bad and harmful are a clear moral danger to the spectators and should not be attended.

Catechism of the Catholic Church #2496

“The means of social communication (especially the mass media) can give rise to a certain passivity among users, making them less than vigilant consumers of what is said or shown. Users should practice moderation and discipline in their approach to the mass media. They will want to form enlightened and correct consciences the more easily to resist unwholesome influences.”

Establish a committee consisting of 2-3 people. This committee will be responsible for:

- Research and report sources and lists of movies, videos/DVD ratings according to Catholic classifications.
- Create list of ratings on flyers/postcards/magnets, etc.
- Obtain 2/3 movies/DVD’s with Catholic classification, i.e. A1 to be previewed.
- Invite a vendor to set up a current display of suitable products.
- Display table setup.
SUGGESTED TABLE DISPLAY:

***Full Committee should be in attendance at this table on WCD

1. Display as many Christian Catholic video/DVD’s as you can and sell them at your table. Contact Ignatius Press regarding their video catalog with hundreds if not thousands of classic Christian movies. If the Ignatius Press ordering department is open when you have your WCD Cinema display table, have their video and DVD catalog, a cell phone and be prepared to take orders from people who come to your table ready and willing to purchase movies.

   Ignatius Press
   P. O. Box 1339
   Ft. Collins CO 80522

   a. Order toll-free with credit card: 1-800.651.1531
   b. Order on-line: www.ignatius.com
   c. Have a few people willing to use their cell phone.
   d. Have a computer with movie capacity.
   e. Have an iPod/MP3 Player.

2. Raffle off tickets to a current movie release.

3. Make all the arrangements for what will be displayed and shown in a special room with a Television. This room will be used as a movie preview room to show and promote the latest new Catholic movie release. Preview the movie through contact with the movie promoter directly or through your diocese, i.e., St. Therese, Song of St. Bernadette, Passion of Christ, Lord of the Rings, The Return of the King, A Man For All Seasons, The Scarlet and the Black

   Establish and post times to show the preview.
4. Make a list printed on a 3 x 5 card (magnet preferred) with detailed explanation of what the movie rating codes mean. Something that parents can put on their refrigerator or bulletin board as their reference guide for quick and easy access when they want to answer their children with a fast “yes” or “no”. The classifications are as follows:

• A-I - General Patronage
• A-II - Adult and Adolescents
• A-III - Adults
• L - Limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. L replaces the previous classification, A-IV
• A-IV - Adults, with reservations (an A-IV classification designates problematic films that, while not morally offensive in themselves, require caution and some analysis and explanation as a safeguard against wrong interpretations and false conclusions).

5. Have the Catechism of the Catholic Church open to #2496

6. Display copies of Catholic Magazines that review movies, i.e., St. Anthony’s Messenger (subscriptions). Have copies of local Diocesan newspaper open to movie information (also subscriptions).

7. At least 3 clear plastic frames with:
   a. ratings framed
   b. promoting the “raffle” message
   c. movies – video – DVD sale

8. Handouts
   a. flyers for parents
   b. catalogs
   c. magnets, etc

9. Free popcorn packages in a box/basket

10. Space on table for a private vendor to sell/take orders for movies on video and DVD
RESOURCES:

1. A list of movie and family video reviews. They can be obtained at:
   www.catholicmoviereview.org
   www.faithcenteredresources.com
   www.ewtn.com/audiovideo
   www.catholic.org
   www.nccbuscc.org/movies

BE AWARE – Do not totally trust all movie reviews and ratings

2. People have to discern. On Ratings - they need to know and trust the reviewer; though a movie has a good review it may not be the Catholic view. Just because it has a Christian theme doesn’t mean it can support Catholic doctrine.

3. Suggest places that families can rent family friendly DVD movies without the profanity, sex, graphic violence and nudity. Places that edit offensive language and scenes from otherwise good films. See the following places:
   www.cleanflicks.com
   www.clean-movies.com

4. Make a list of cinema media contacts (companies) that make and distribute films along with an explanation on how families can call, write or email them to offer compliments or complain about their program content which is explained in more detail at the Media Response Table Exhibit. Your visitors should be encouraged to become active in expressing their views to the cinema media.
   www.fatherhardonmedia.org/mcs_cinema.html
Prayer to St. Genesius
Patron of Actors and Secretaries

Prayer for Actors

Dear Saint Genesius, according to a very ancient story, when you were still a pagan you once ridiculed Christ while acting on the stage. But, like Saul on the road to Damascus, you were overwhelmed by Christ's powerful grace. You rose bearing witness to Jesus and died a great martyr's death. Intercede for your fellow actors before God, that they may faithfully and honestly perform their roles and so help others to understand their role in life thus enabling them to attain their end in heaven. Amen.
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Five Questions Parents Should Ask Themselves When Selecting a Movie for their Children

1. Does the movie offend God?

The movie shouldn’t offend God or insult the teachings of the Church especially regarding the moral law. This should be the standard for every decision parents make.

2. Does the movie glamorize evil?

It can be explicit, implicit or subtle. Hollywood is really good at this and it is most dangerous when it is subtle. Is whatever “good” in the movie achieved through “evil” means?

3. How will this movie affect my child?

The movie must be viewed through the prism of its audience. Parents must consider each child as an individual, unique personality. Children mature at different rates and their innocence needs protection.

4. Is this movie visually attractive?

Movies teach through a visual medium. Images should elevate and inspire. They should raise the bar and give children a true understanding of innocence and beauty.

5. How serious is the obligation of parents to pre-screen?

Current rating sources have proven to be varied and unreliable. Children learn to love what their parents love. Parents teach by what they say, do and by what they allow their children to do.
People have to discern. On Ratings - they need to know and trust the reviewer; though a movie has a good review it may not be the Catholic view. Just because it has a Christian theme doesn’t mean it can support Catholic doctrine.

Dorothy Amorella – DRE – St. John Cantius Parish, Chicago, IL
6-22-2007
Movies, DVD's and TV Reviews

The Office for Film and Broadcasting is responsible for reviewing and rating theatrical motion pictures, previewing and evaluating television programming as well as providing the Catholic public with information about the role of the entertainment and news media in influencing societal and personal values.

In recognition of the importance of the videocassette player in the American home, the Office has prepared a volume of capsule reviews assessing the moral and entertainment values of more than 8,000 movies available on television or video. The office also sponsored a "Faith on Film" festival to commemorate the jubilee.

The Office's reviews and ratings of new movies and its evaluations of television and video programming are made widely available through their distribution by the Catholic News Service to the extensive network of Catholic newspapers in the U.S. and to foreign subscribers interested in the American media. Each week's capsule reviews of new movie releases are also available by calling the office's toll-free movieline at 1-800-311-4222.

http://www.catholicacademy.org/index.cfm/NewsItem?ID=162413&From=Home
The Catholic Standard & Times
http://www.cst-phl.com/media.html

Movie Classifications

The following are classifications of current movies reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.
(* indicates new release.)

**General Patronage:**
- Into Great Silence*
- Happily N'Ever After
- Miss Potter
- Night at the Museum
- The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause
- Flicka
- Love's Abiding Joy
- Lassie
- The Ant Bully
- Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties
- Cars
- Over the Hedge
- Hoot
- Akeelah and the Bee

**Adults and Adolescents:**
- The Astronaut Farmer*
- Amazing Grace
- Bridge to Terabithia
- The Last Sin Eater
- Freedom Writers
- Rocky Balboa
- We are Marshall
- Unaccompanied Minors
- Happy Feet
- One Night with the King
- Flushed Away
- Conversations With God
- The Prestige
- Alex Rider: Operation Stormbreaker
- The Queen
- Facing the Giants
- Open Season
- Flyboys
- Everyone's Hero
- Gridiron Gang
- How to Eat Fried Worms
- Zoom

**Adults:**
- Two Weeks*
- Wild Hogs*
- Zodiac*
- Ghost Rider
- Avenue Montaigne
- Breach
- Music and Lyrics
- Starter for Ten
- Tyler Perry's Daddy's Little Girls
- The Lives of Others (Das Leben Der Anderen)
- The Messengers
- Norbit
- Blood and Chocolate
- Catch and Release
- Breaking and Entering
- The Death of Mr. Lazarescu
- Fateless
- Three
- Seraphim Falls
- Code Name: The Cleaner
- Stomp the Yard
- Pan's Labyrinth
- Dreamgirls
- The Good Shepherd
- Letters from Iwo Jima
- The Painted Veil
- Blood Diamond
- The Fountain
- Opal Dream
Casino Royale
Deck the Halls
Déjà vu
Stranger Than Fiction
A Good Year
Catch a Fire
Babel
Requiem
Flags of Our Fathers
The Grudge 2
Marie Antoinette
Jesus Camp
Man of the Year
The Guardian
A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints
Jet Li’s Fearless
All the King’s Men
Renaissance
Saint of 9/11
The Science of Sleep
The Covenant
Keeping Mum
Little Miss Sunshine
The Illusionist

Adults with Reservations:
The Abandoned*
Black Snake Moan*
The Number 23
Primeval
Little Children
Notes on a Scandal
Perfume: The Story of a Murderer
Children of Men
Apocalypto
3 Needles
The History Boys
Fast Food Nation
Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus
Running With Scissors
Nearing Grace
Volver
Infamous
The Departed
Employee of the Month
The Last King of Scotland
School for Scoundrels
The Last Kiss
Aurora Borealis
Confetti
This Film Is Not Yet Rated
Crossover
Accepted
Factotum

10th & Wolf
Boynton Beach Club
The Night Listener
Quinceanera
Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby
Scoop
John Tucker Must Die
A Scanner Darkly
Loverboy
The Omen
The Proposition
Down in the Valley

Morally Offensive:
Reno 911! Miami*
Hannibal Rising
Because I Said So
Epic Movie
The Hitcher
Smokin’ Aces
Alpha Dog
Venus
National Lampoon’s Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj
Turistas
Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny
Harsh Times
Borat: Cultural Learning of America for Make
Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan
Saw III
Jackass: Number Two
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning
The Black Dahlia
Beerfest
Trust the Man
The Descent
Clerks II
Miami Vice
Nacho Libre
Land of the Blind
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

INTERNET MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

The Internet is a tremendous media tool with which to evangelize an entire world. If used properly, it is a dynamic means to disseminate information (Truth). Committee members should be familiar with the Internet and Catholic websites. This is a unique opportunity for younger members of the parish to get involved with World Communications Day.

Establish a committee of around 4 or 5 people. This committee will be responsible for gathering relevant Roman Catholic Orthodox Internet material. For the exhibit, the committee should have a laptop computer, Palm Pilot, and Blackberry with Internet access to the Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate Catholic website.

www.fatherhardonmedia.org/wcd.html

SHARED DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE:

1. Explain Search Engines and their functions to gather Catholic information i.e.
   - Parishes – not all parishes have web sites
   - Mass schedules nationwide
   - Eucharistic Adoration sites
   - Apologetics
   - Religious Vocations
   - Catholic Home Schooling
   - Lay Orders
   - Catholic Book Stores
   - Indulgences/Plenary
   - Bible study
2. Catholic Web Sites

- Provide list of web sites for handout, i.e.
  1. [www.vatican.com](http://www.vatican.com) / [www.vatican.va/phome_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/phome_en.htm) – The Vatican Website
  2. [www.intermirifica.org](http://www.intermirifica.org) – Catholic means of social communication
  3. [www.therealpresence.org](http://www.therealpresence.org) – The Real Presence Association
  4. [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org) – News agency, the world seen from Rome
  5. [www.fatherhardonmedia.org](http://www.fatherhardonmedia.org) – Father Hardon Media Apostolate
  7. [www.childrenofhope.org](http://www.childrenofhope.org) – Faith based educational web for children
  8. [www.web2.airmail.net](http://www.web2.airmail.net) – God’s Yellow Pages (Great Bible site)
  10. [www.christiancadre.org](http://www.christiancadre.org) – Great List of Catholic Sites
  11. [www.MYNABYOO.com](http://www.MYNABYOO.com) – Porn Blocker for Children

### SET-UP TABLE:

1. Skirt on table (see diagram for set-up)

2. Several clear plastic 8 x 10 frames for information display Signs
   - WCD Internet Table
   - Help Yourself for handout material
   - Pictures of electronic communicators (Mother Angelica, Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Fulton Sheen, Father John A. Hardon, S.J.)
   - Printout of list of Catholic web sites
   - Freebees – magnets from EWTN, calendars of program schedules, Holy Cards with message from WCD, sponsorship cards
   - Live plant/flower arrangement or dish of candy
   - List of rules for Internet courtesy
   - Complete list of Catholic material on-line
   - How to email to register complains or compliment to a web site
   - Internet porno-blockers for children

3. Laptop computer, printer, chair and printer paper

4. Committee to Budget for the table
BUDGET FOR INTERNET TABLE:

- Table skirt
- Clear plastic frames
- Computer Paper
- Flowers/candy
- Magnets/holy cards/brochures/schedules/programs
- Printed hand outs

RESOURCES FOR FREE CATALOGS

1. Eternal Life
   902 W. Stephen Foster Avenue
   Bardstown, KY  40004
   1-800.842.2871
   www.lifeeternal.org

2. Ignatius Press
   P.O. Box 1339
   Ft. Collins, CO  80522
   1-800.651-1531
   www.ignatius.com

3. All Things Family (Educational/Entertainment Values)
   P.O. Box 30204
   Salt Lake, Utah 84130-0204
   1-800.326.4590
   www.allthingsfamily.com

4. Presentation Ministries, Inc.
   3230 McHenry
   Cincinnati, OH  45211
   1-513.662.5378
   www.presentationministries.com

   Email for publications & tapes:
   pubsandtapes@presentationministries.com

6. Pauline Books and Media
   50 Saint Paul Avenue
   Boston, MA  02130-3491
   1-800.836.9723
   www.pauline.org

7. Our Sunday Visitor
   200 Noll Plaza
   Huntington, IN  46750
   1-800.348.2440
   www.osv.com

8. St. Joseph Communications
   1-800.526.2151
   www.saintjoe.com

9. Marians of the Immaculate Conception (Divine Mercy)
   Eden Hill
   Stockbridge, MA  01263
   1-800.462.7426
   www.thedivinemercy.org

10. Catholic Parish Websites (when available)
    **Important Information i.e., Mass schedule, Reconciliation, Adoration, etc.**

11. Excellent Book: Catholics On The Internet by Brother John Raymond

12. Your Catholic Book Stores – Promote and support your Catholic Book Stores
Here we are in front of You, Holy Spirit. We feel the burden of our infirmities, but we are united all together in Your name: come to us, help us, enter into our hearts: teach us what we should do, the path to follow, do for us what You ask us to do. Be the only one to propose and guide our decisions, because only You, with the Father and the Son, have a name that is glorious and holy. Do not allow us to offend justice, You, who love order and peace, Don’t let ignorance lead us astray, Don’t let human sympathy bias us, Don’t let people or office influence us. Keep us intimately close to You with the gift of Your Grace, so that we may be united with You, and nothing may separate us from the truth. Gathered in Your Holy Name, may we be good and firm, so that all we do may be in harmony with You, awaiting that the faithful fulfillment of our duty may lead us to the eternal good. Amen
Welcome to WiredSafety

You are here: Home

Search this site

Navigate by category

- Parents
- Educators and librarians
- Law enforcement
- Womens' issues
- Kids, tweens and teens

HOT topics

に戻る MySpace, Profile, Blog and Social Networksに戻る Cyberbullyingに戻る Cyberdatingに戻る Child pornography

Need help?

- Report cyberabuses
- Live help - at our online chats
- Internet 101
- Ask Parry!

Get involved

- Help spread the word
- Link to us
- Become a volunteer
- Join WiredMoms

Monitor this Web site

Need Help Now?
Reach our CyberStalking, Cyberbullying and Cyberabuse Helpline

Note that we are not a law enforcement agency. You must contact the police if you suspect a crime has taken place or you are at risk!
Parry Aftab, an Internet privacy and security lawyer, is WiredSafety's Executive Director. She helps us design our programs to address best and safer practices within the Internet industry, as well as helping empower users.  More about Parry...

To access our videos, animations, printable materials and curriculum, click here.

WiredSafety News Headlines

WiredSafety appears in the media several times daily.

Visit Parry's blog and podcast for news updates.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

If you cannot find the answer at our Web site - Ask Parry!

- New to the net? - read our Internet 101.
- Want to learn more? - sign up for our free online classes.
- Cyberstalking and harassment - definitions, support and help.
- Internet predators - What we all need to know.
- Is your child at risk? - How to spot a vulnerable preteen or teen.
- Need help now? - Our Cyber911 helpline for victims of cyberabuse.
- Kids online - Information just for kids, tweens and teens!
- Spyware and Adware - how to detect and remove spyware.
- E-mail safety - information on spam, scams andchain letters.
- Chatting online - Chat and IM safely and learn the lingo.
- Online gaming safety - all about online gaming safety.
- Downloading music safety - what the law says and disabling P2P.
- Identity theft - how safe is your personal data?
- Online and cyberdating - how to have fun and stay safe.
- Online shopping and auctions - advice on safer e-commerce.
- Scams and fraud - how to tell a hoax and report an online fraud.
- Website safety and policies - Building a safer Website.

WiredSafety provides help, information and education to Internet and mobile device users of all ages. We help victims of cyberabuse ranging from online fraud, cyberstalking and child safety, to hacking and malicious code attacks. We also help parents with issues, such as MySpace and cyberbullying. More about us...

NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR EVENT OR SCHOOL PRESENTATION?
To Book a Speaker for Your Event, contact our Speakers Bureau.
Recorded Webcast

Click here to complete the simple form to view the recorded webcast

Join Parry Aftab, legislators, educators, industry professionals, tween and teenangels at a two day conference discussing the nature and impact of cyberbullying and how we can work together to combat it at all levels.

We operate Teenangels, WiredKids, CyberLawEnforcement, StopCyberbullying, and Internet Super Heroes, as well as WiredSafety.org.

View our tutorial on sexual predators and how they operate.

Educators - Lessons on Cyber Safety through Information Literacy

Visit our NEW Animation and Video Page

To get more information about the Megan Pledge email Parry

Keeping Kids and Teens Safe on MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, Xanga and other Networking Sites

- Quick tips on social networking safety for parents and teens.
- What you need to know about YouTube and other video networks.
- Parenting Online booklet (English).
- Parenting Online booklet (En Español).

Cyberbullying, Cyberstalking and Harassment - Getting help and staying safe!

- Need help as a victim of cyberbullying, cyberstalking or harassment? Report it.
- Have you been cyberbullied? Take our quiz or answer our poll.
- Visit StopCyberbullying.org or Netbullies.com
- Cyberbullying safety tips.
There has been a rapid increase in activity online which was once only conducted offline, like dating and shopping. Make sure you are aware of the dangers, that you know how to protect yourself and also what to do if something goes wrong online. Visit our Privacy and Security pages.
Video and Computer Games

Video and computer games top the wish lists of many children. While they do have their advantages, electronic games can lure children away from activities such as outdoor play, reading, arts and crafts, and socializing with their friends and family. Here are some tips to help parents maintain the balance between video and computer game use and other activities:

• **Take advantage:** Electronic games do have their advantages. Playing these games can help children feel comfortable with technology; give them the chance to compete against themselves, rather than another child; and can help children learn to pay close attention, follow directions, and solve problems. Despite these advantages, computer and video games should never replace other types of play.

• **Demand active play:** Too many children today are overweight and out of shape. Electronic games and television don’t help the situation. Require your children to spend at least as much time engaged in physical activities, such as sports or active outdoor games, as they do in front of a screen.

• **Provide an education:** If your children must play electronic games, buy ones that teach as well as entertain.

• **Check the ratings:** Before you let your children buy, rent, or play a game, look on the front of the box for its rating. Games rated “E” (everyone) are usually the best for school-age children. “T” (teen) games include questionable language, scenes, and themes, and are intended for those 13 and over. There’s a good reason “M” (mature) and “AO” (adults only) games are not recommended for those under 17—they’re usually loaded with violence, foul language, and sex.

• **Read the content descriptors:** In addition to the rating, every video and computer game contains a black and white content descriptor box on the back of the game’s box. These descriptors give more details about the product in terms of violence, sexual themes, and language. For more information on ratings and content descriptors, visit the Entertainment Software Rating Board’s (ESRB) Web site at www.esrb.org or call them at 800-771-3772.

• **Set limits:** The desire to play “just one more” game can be overwhelming and can entice children (and adults) into spending too much time in front of the screen. Set firm limits on when and how long your child can play video or computer games.

• **Keep an eye on grades:** Too many children’s grades slip because they’re spending too much time with the latest game. Use game time as a privilege, not a daily activity, and insist that schoolwork always comes first.

• **Keep violence out of your home:** There’s a strong link between watching/playing violent programs and acting aggressively. Keep violent games off limits, both at home and at friends’ houses.

• **Avoid online games:** In the online environment, you never really know who’s on the other end. If you allow your children to play online games, make sure their screen names don’t reveal their age, grade, or other personal information. Check ESRB’s Web site for the content and rating information for the online game sites your children frequent. Never allow your children to chat in online game rooms.

• **Play together:** Playing computer and video games together is a way to connect with your child while monitoring what he or she is playing. Just remember to spend time together away from the electronic games and television, too.
E-Mail Etiquette

Introduction

This document is intended to offer guidance to users of electronic mail (e-mail) systems.

This is not a "how-to" document, but rather a document that offers advice to make you more computer-worthy (probably more worthy than you desire) and to prevent you from embarrassing yourself at some point in the near future.

To, Cc and Bcc

With only three choices for addressing an e-mail, i.e. the 'To', 'Cc' and 'Bcc' fields, you would think addressing would be trouble free. Unfortunately, that's not the case.

First, there are the users who have no idea that the 'Cc' exists. Every address is listed in the 'To' even if the e-mail is only directed to one person. In cases such as this the receivers have no clue as to who should take action so either they all do something or they all do nothing.

Secondly, there are users who feel that every single e-mail should be copied to their entire address book whether it's relevant to those receiving it or not. These are the 'cry for attention' crowd.

Lastly, there are users who never read the names of the people who receive a copy of an e-mail. They are the 'Did you see this?' crowd. For example, person X sends an e-mail to persons A, B and C. C immediately forwards it to A and B with the question 'Did you see this?' not bothering to see that X already sent A and B copies.

In summary, here's a rough guide on how to populate the address fields:

The addresses in the 'To' are for the people you are directly addressing.

The addresses in the 'Cc' are for the people you are indirectly addressing. They are the FYI-ers or CYA-ers. Don't over do it here. Copy only those who need to be copied; not your entire universe of contacts.

The addresses in the 'Bcc' are like 'Cc' except that the addresses in 'To' and 'Cc' do not know that the addresses in the 'Bcc' are included in the conversation. The 'To' and 'Cc' addresses are blind to the 'Bcc' addresses. As you can imagine, use of the 'Bcc' is somewhat unethical and therefore its use is discouraged.

Reply To All

The 'Reply to All' button is just a button, but it can generate tons of unnecessary e-mails. For example, if I send a dozen people an e-mail asking if they are available at a certain time for a meeting I should get a dozen replies and that's it. However, if each person hits the "Reply to All' button not only do I get a dozen replies, but so does everyone else for a total of 144 messages!

I'm not saying that the 'Reply to All' button should not be used. I'm saying that it should be used with care.

Don't Be A Novelist
Messages should be concise and to the point. Think of it as a telephone conversation, except you are typing instead of speaking. Nobody has ever won a Pulitzer Prize for a telephone conversation nor will they win one for an e-mail message.

It's also important to remember that some people receive hundreds of e-mail messages a day (yes, there are such people), so the last thing they want to see is a message from someone who thinks he/she is the next Dickens.

**Too Much Punctuation!!!**

Don't get caught up in grammar and punctuation, especially excessive punctuation. You'll see lots of e-mail messages where people put a dozen exclamation points at the end of a sentence for added emphasis. Big deal. Exclamation points (called "bangs" in computer circles) are just another form of ending a sentence.

If something is important it should be reflected in your text, not in your punctuation.

**Formatting Is Not Everything**

Formatting can be everything, but not here. Plain text is it. Period. End of sentence.

Using HTML, or heaven forbid the Microsquish Rich Text Format, to format messages so that they have fancy fonts, colors or whatever is asking for trouble. There are lots of e-mail clients (and some servers) which cannot handle messages in these formats. The message will come in as utter gibberish or in the worst case, crash the e-mail client. I've seen it happen.

If you absolutely, positively feel that it's good karma to use HTML e-mail, stick with the default fonts and simple formatting. Leave the colorful backgrounds, scripty fonts and animated images for your personal web site.

**Abbreviations**

Abbreviation usage is quite rampant with e-mail. In the quest to save keystrokes, users have traded clarity for confusion (unless you understand the abbreviations). Some of the more common abbreviations are listed in the table below. I would recommend that you use abbreviations that are already common to the English language, such as 'FYI' and 'BTW'. Beyond that, you run the risk of confusing your recipient.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This</th>
<th>Means This</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCNU</td>
<td>be seeing you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTW</td>
<td>by the way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FWIW</td>
<td>for what it's worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYI</td>
<td>for your information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMHO</td>
<td>in my humble opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBO</td>
<td>or best offer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTFL</td>
<td>rolling on the floor laughing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTFM</td>
<td>read the funny manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNSTAAFL</td>
<td>there's no such thing as a free lunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part of the nature of a good one-on-one conversation is the use of visual cues. How important are facial expressions and body gestures to a conversation? A simple eye movement can mean the difference between "yes" and "YES". What about auditory cues? The results are the same.

Since there are no visual or auditory cues with e-mail, users have come up with something called "smilies". They are simple strings of characters that are interspersed in the e-mail text to convey the writer's emotions (cues). The most common example is :-) Turn your head to the left and you should see a happy face (the colon are the eyes, the dash is the nose and the parentheses is the mouth). Here are some more examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This</th>
<th>Means This</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>:-)</td>
<td>Smiley face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>;--)</td>
<td>Wink (light sarcasm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>;--)</td>
<td>Indifference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:--)</td>
<td>Devilish grin (heavy sarcasm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8--)</td>
<td>Eye-glasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:--D</td>
<td>Shock or surprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:--/</td>
<td>Perplexed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:--)</td>
<td>Frown (anger or displeasure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:--P</td>
<td>Wry smile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>;--)</td>
<td>Leer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:-Q</td>
<td>Smoker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:-e</td>
<td>Disappointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:-@</td>
<td>Scream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:-O</td>
<td>Yell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:-*</td>
<td>Drunk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:-{}</td>
<td>Wears lipstick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please don't ask me to interpret, because I don't understand them all.

They are typically found at the end of sentences and will usually refer back to the prior statement.

I would recommend you use these sparingly. There are hundreds of these things and their translations are by no means universal (a miss-interpreted smilie could lead to a flame).

Salutations
The question here is "How personal is too personal?" or to be more specific, how do you open your e-mail: "Dear Sir", "Dear Mr. Smith", "Joe" or none of the afore-mentioned.

If you posed this question to Miss Manners, I expect she would come back with a quick answer - use the standard formalities -- but I don’t know that I would agree.

In a non-business situation, I would recommend that you bypass the standard formalities. At most, I would only include something along the lines of "Dear Virgil" or just "Virgil".

In the business situation, things are much more complicated. Each situation will need to be evaluated on its own, but in general, I would use the following as a guide: If you normally address a person as Miss/Mrs./Ms./Mr. Smith then that's the way I would initially address them in e-mail. If you normally call them by their first name then I would either omit the salutation or follow the guideline specified in the prior paragraph. If you are unsure, stick to the formal salutation. It's the safest bet.

**Signatures**

If you had to guess what a signature was (the e-mail version), you would probably be close.

On a paper document (save a tree, send e-mail) it's typical to close the document with the following:

![Gene Wicker Jr.
I Will Follow... Services](image)

Since it’s not possible (yet) to sign your e-mail, users will sometimes include the same information (minus the signature) at the bottom of their e-mail messages.

I would highly recommend this practice because the originator is not always clear to the recipient. Lots of companies use abbreviated names or numbers for employee e-mail addresses and those abbreviations or numbers will mean little to someone not familiar with their significance.

I would also recommend that you included your e-mail address in this information. Sometimes it can be very difficult to locate your e-mail address in the information that’s a part of transmission, especially if it’s going across the Internet.

If your e-mail address is a business address, I would include your title and company name in the signature. Normally, this might be part of a letterhead, but in the e-mail world letterheads are not used (wasted space).

You will sometimes run across a user's signature that contains a quote (as in "...the secret to life is that there is no secret.") after the person's name. This has become a fairly common practice. If you choose this option I would recommend that the quote be something that is a reflection of yourself. Keep it short. You don't want the quote to be longer than the message.

Also you will run across signatures that contain images built out of keyboard characters. These are kind of hard to describe unless you've seen one, but you will surely know one when you see it. As with the quote, the image should be a reflection of the person.

Whether you choose to add a quote, an image or both, I would recommend that you keep the total number of lines for the signature down to four or less.
Attachments

Back in dial-up days I would have recommended that all attachments be held to 1MB in size. However, in today's ever expanding broadband world, things are a little different.

For users on dial-up, the 1MB limit still applies. For users on broadband or a direct connection, I would up the limit to 5MB. HOWEVER, this is not a blanket recommendation to send attachments of this size. Even if user is on broadband or a direct connection, there is no guarantee that their mailbox can handle it. With limits this small you can see that sending someone a 5MB attachment will quickly fill their mailbox and cause other e-mails to bounce.

Generally, the only time I send attachments of the 5MB size is when I know the other party is expect it.

vCards

vCards are simply a nightmare for a user of Outlook (which I am). They make every e-mail appear as if it has an attachment. It does in one respect, but it's not what you would normally consider an attachment i.e. a document, a spreadsheet, etc. Therefore, I recommend against using them.

Threads

Once you send that first e-mail, you will probably get a response. If you want to reply to that response what should you do? The wrong thing to do is to start a new e-mail message. This breaks the link (called a "thread") between the original message and your soon-to-be-created response. Without the link, it can get difficult for the users on each end to follow the sequence of messages, especially after several exchanges. This becomes an even larger problem when you are dealing with newsgroups (more later) where several people may be replying to messages and trying to follow the thread of exchanged information. The correct thing to do is to reply, which is essentially the same thing as creating a new message, but maintains the thread.

Quotes

Nothing is more wasteful than to reply to an e-mail by including a complete copy of the original with the words "I agree", "Okay" or "Ditto" at the bottom.

The correct method is to use quoting. This is best explained by an example:

> and do you agree with the proposal to hire Ms. Ross to handle our legal services?

Yes. Please make the necessary arrangements.

The '>' in front of the text indicates to the recipient that this is quoted material from his/her last e-mail message. The second sentence is your response to the quoted material. The key with quoting is to include enough material in the quote so that it will be relevant to the recipient. Imagine that the original message was a hundred lines long and the only question that required a response was located in the last sentence. Why send the whole message back in the reply? That would cause the recipient to scroll through the hundred line message again just to find your response at the bottom.

Quoting can occur again and again as in the example:
>>and do you agree with the proposal to hire Ms. Ross to handle our legal services?
>
> Yes. Please make the necessary arrangements.

Arrangements made. Our first meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning.

From this we see both two level quoting (>>,>) and one level quoting (>). The (>>>) indicate that the sender is quoting your quote and the (>) is a quote of part of your message you sent in reply.

Don't get hung up in quoting. After so many levels, all you end up with is a bunch of ">" and very little substance.

Save A Tree

Sometimes I think that the best thing that could happen would be for someone to take away the printer. Why? Every time I send an e-mail out to a large group, a third of the group will print the message even before reading it, a third will read it and then print it, and the last third will simply delete it.

One of the goals for e-mail usage is to eliminate (or greatly reduce) the shuffling of paper, but what chance does that have if a significant number of people are going to print every message they receive. I'm not saying that all messages should not be printed. I'm saying that too many messages are printed for no reason (a lot are printed and never retrieved from the printer).

Unless you have a very primitive e-mail system, it probably has some system (usually called "folders") that can be used to permanently store messages for recall at any time in the future. If the same people who print messages for paper file systems would create the same structure in the e-mail system with folders, it would accomplish the same goal, but would save an enormous amount of paper (and trees).

Privacy, Are You Kidding?

Stop right where you are and set aside a couple of brain cells for the following statement: there is no such thing as a private e-mail. I don't care what anybody says, states, swears or whatever, there is just no such thing as private e-mail. The reason? Keep reading.

With some e-mail systems, the e-mail administrator has the ability to read any and all e-mail messages. If this is the case where you are located you better hope that there is a honest and respectable person in that position.

Some companies monitor employee e-mail (I consider this one of the worst forms of censorship). The reasons for this obtrusive behavior range from company management wanting to make sure users are not wasting time on frivolous messages to making sure that company secrets are not being leaked to unauthorized sources.

E-mail software is like all software in that occasionally things go wrong. If this happens, you may end up receiving e-mail meant for another person or your e-mail may get sent to the wrong person. Either way, what you thought was private is not private anymore.

Somewhere in the world there is a person (usually a hacker) who is able to read your e-mail if he/she tries hard enough. Of course "Tries hard enough" is the key. It's not that simple to read another person's e-mail (usually). There are (usually) security measures in place to prevent this from happening, but no security is one hundred percent hacker-proof. I have "usually" in parenthesis in the prior two sentences because I'm making the
assumption that the person/persons who install and operate your e-mail system have taken the necessary precautions. Of course, the same must also be true for the person/persons on the receiving end of your e-mail.

So where does this leave us. First, let me reiterate the initial statement: there is no such thing as a private e-mail. Got it? Second, don't send anything by e-mail that you would not want posted on the company bulletin board. If it's safe enough for the bulletin board, it's safe enough for e-mail. Finally, if you are debating whether or not to send something personal by e-mail, either deliver it by hand or send it by snail mail.

**If You Send It From the Office, It Comes From The Office**

Personal e-mails sent from the office are regarded as official company communications regardless of content and could possibly expose you and your company to unnecessary risk. Scary, huh?

**Flames**

What is a "flame" or specifically what does it mean "to be flamed?" To be flamed means that you've sent an e-mail to a person(s) that has caused that person(s) to respond in many, not-so-nice words. It's basically a verbal attack in electronic form. I would provide examples, but I'm not too sure of the age of my audience and I, in turn, do not want to end up getting flamed from the readers of this document.

Sometimes the reason for a flame is quite obvious (keep reading), but in other cases you just never know. You might send what you think is a harmless e-mail to ten people. Nine people respond in a rational tone while number ten sends you a flame. Just remember that everyone sees the world differently. You may be lucky and spend your whole life dealing only with the people in the group of nine, but I'll bet that sooner or later you will run into person ten.

How do you respond to flame? Tough question. The best answer would be to ignore it and go about your life as logical and rational human being. If this is not your first reaction, it probably will be after you've been flamed a couple dozen times. You will find out that responses just aren't worth the effort. Remember that old saying about "You can please some of the people...".

If you do choose to respond you will probably end up in what is known as a "flame war". This is where two or more people end up exchanging flames for an extended period of time, usually to the point that users start making references to one's mother, one's mental capability, etc... At some point, all those participating in the war will eventually forget what originally started it and go back to being normal human beings.

Never been flamed? Well if you are begging for it, I would suggest one of the following:

**Send an e-mail in all UPPERCASE.** Use of upper-case words is the equivalent of shouting in some one's ear. ONLY use upper-case words when trying to make a point (such as I just did). Even at that, you should be careful with who you are exchanging messages.

**Make a comment about grammar or punctuation.** Nobody wants to feel like they are exchanging e-mail with their eighth-grade English teacher.

**Send a mass-mailing advertisement.** This is numero uno on the don'ts list and will generate more flames than the devil himself.

Think about the amount of junk mail you receive everyday by snail mail. Even though you don't want it, you find you must look through all of it because somewhere in that stack of unwanted advertisements and wasted
paper could be your monthly water bill. The same principle applies to the e-mail. Would you want to search through a mailbox full of advertisements simply to find that all-important message from your boss?

**Request computer help without providing system-specific information.** For example, if I submitted an e-mail that stated "I've got this problem with Word...". Well is that Word 97, Word 98, Word 2000, Word for XP or Word for 2003? Tell them the version and if there are any service releases installed.

Remember, the world (and its users) is made up of every kind of computer imaginable, from PCs to Macs to Linux workstations to the one your neighbor assembled in his garage.

The correct method would be to list all the system specifics first, then describe the problem or question. For example, if I were seeking answers to questions about Microsquish Word for my computer at home, I would list Winoze 2000 with SP5, Orfice 2000 with SR3, HP Kawack, dual Pentium IIs, 512MB of RAM and 4GB SCSI hard drive and then state the problem in detail.

**Better Than Snail Mail**

You would think that since e-mail is electronic and electronic information is suppose to move at the speed of light, your e-mail message would arrive seconds after you send it. If you're sending e-mail to the person in the office next to yours it might happen that way. In most cases, however, the message will probably take anywhere from a couple of minutes (majority of the time) to a couple of days (in which case there is usually a problem).

Think of it this way. Sending e-mail locally is as easy as delivering it by hand. Following that premise, if you had to hand deliver mail to someone clear across the country, doesn't that take a little more effort?

The reason it takes longer is that in the transmission of a message from point A to point B, the message may pass across one, two, or up to who-knows-how-many different types of mail systems before it reaches its destination. Remember my earlier statement? All computers (and e-mail systems) are not the same.

No matter how far away you are sending your e-mail message I'll guarantee that it will beat snail mail. On top of that you save the cost of a stamp.

**A Blessing And A Curse**

E-mail is a conversation that does not require an immediate response (like a telephone). If someone calls you on the telephone, you pick it up (unless you have an answering machine, voice mail or you are just plain rude) and the conversation begins. This is an interactive conversation.

With e-mail you send a message and then wait for a response. The response may come in five minutes or the response may come in five days. Either way it's not an interactive conversation.

If a hundred people send you e-mail in one day, so what? You didn't have to talk with all one hundred. Just think of all the hellos, good-byes and other unnecessary chit-chat you avoided. With e-mail you only deal with their messages (which usually omit hellos, good-byes and such) and you deal with them on your own time. That's the blessing.

Now for the curse.

Too many users assume that the minute someone receives an e-mail it, the person will read it. Bad assumption.
If you schedule a meeting for an hour from now and send an e-mail to each attendee, the chance that all the attendee's will read that message within the hour will be pretty small. On the other hand, if you schedule the meeting for the next day, the chance that they will read the message will be pretty high. Remember, e-mail is not designed for immediacy (that's why you have a telephone), it's designed for convenience.

Some (not all) e-mail systems have features that try to combat this problem. These features (usually called "notification") will notify you when a person has received your e-mail and may also notify you when the person has read it (really all it can do is assume you that the person has looked at the first screen of the message -- it has no way to know if the person has read the message word for word). Referring back to the example in the last paragraph, you could check to see who has checked their e-mail before the meeting and then telephone those who have not read it.
Email Etiquette

Solution As the owner of an ecommerce web site, you'll find much of your time is taken up with email communications. While your web site is your face to the world, email provides people with a more intimate insight as to who you are - your procedures, approach and ethics.

In many instances, people will already know what they wish to purchase - it's simply a matter of deciding whom to purchase the item from. Email is one of the strategies that they use in deciding.

Many of your partnerships with merchants will also be made or broken based on the quality of your email communications. Electronic Mail is a very powerful tool and like using any other tool, you can be a master or an accident waiting to happen.

We offer these following points to bear in mind to assist you with your email communications

- Remember that whatever you send can be sent on to other people and become public knowledge. It's wise to add a disclaimer and confidentiality statement to each communication:

  Disclaimer - This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and contain privileged or copyright information. You must not present this message to another party without gaining permission from the sender. If you are not the intended recipient you must not copy, distribute or use this email or the information contained in it for any purpose other than to notify us. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately, and delete this email from your system. We do not guarantee that this material is free from viruses or any other defects although due care has been taken to minimize the risk.

- It is quite simple to forge e-mail. You should not assume that a message is from the "sender" - especially if it appears to be from a service provider requesting a password or financial information. Study the note carefully before responding with sensitive data.

- Be careful with viewing attachments, even from people you know, as attachments are often a source of computer viruses. It's imperative that you have virus scanner installed and operating at all times. In most cases if you have a virus scanner, right clicking on the attachment should display a menu option to scan the item. If this option does not exist, save the attachment to the hard drive and scan it from within the anti-virus program before opening it.

To further protect your system, if you are using Outlook or Outlook Express, your preview window should be disabled - worm viruses can execute via a preview window.

**NOTE:** Sending an infected email to another person or company could result in legal action by the affected party, so it's crucial to have a reliable virus scanner installed and operating at all times. Remember to check for updates regularly or better still, have the system check automatically.

- Respect the copyright on material that you reproduce. List all references, quotes and sources. Copyright law applies to e-mail messages as with any other document - both physical and electronic.

- Don't give anyone access to your e-mail account - you may be held responsible for any actions they carry out.
• If you are forwarding a message, don't change the wording. If you are replying try to only quote the relevant parts of the original message

• E-mail lacks body language and vocal intonation, which are vital aspects of "normal" communications. Be careful with sarcasm and humor as the person you are writing to may misconstrue what you are stating.

• Remember that once a message is sent, it cannot be recalled, so take care with knee jerk reactions. If you are angry when composing an email, put it in your drafts folder and review it the next day - you'll be surprised how often you will find your perceptions have changed.

• Use proper sentence case when composing email. USING ALL UPPER CASE LETTERS IS CONSIDERED "SHOUTING" and rude. If you wish to emphasize something try *this*.

• Mail messages should have a subject heading which reflects the contents of the note.

• If you wish to use a signature paragraph - keep it short - no longer than 4 lines.

• Use your name in all communications, not just your company name - people will want to know exactly who they are communicating with - "Customer Care" "Client Support" are not names, they are titles - attempts at anonymity in an online business environment can often be misinterpreted as being dishonest and having something to hide.

• When sending attached files such as spreadsheets or word processed documents, use a version which is likely to be supported by the recipient.

• It is considered good manners to ask a recipient of their willingness to accept an attachment before sending it to them.

• When sending emails to multiple names, ensure that distribution lists are used carefully. To preserve privacy, unless you specifically want all list members to know who the email was sent to, you should put list members in the Bcc: line (Blind Carbon Copy).

• Read your e-mail regularly. The immediacy of e-mail is lost if it sits unnoticed in your mailbox for long periods. People expect responses within 24 hours of sending their note to you. One extra hour can mean the difference between keeping or losing a client.

• Delete unwanted messages on a daily basis from your mailbox as this helps prevent important emails being deleted accidentally.

• Save your important messages to a special folder to keep a record - emails are legal documents and can assist with dispute resolution.

• Unfortunately, email has become so widely abused that wading through your inbox these days can be like running through a war zone. But if you set a good example for email communications, others will follow - and you will also stand out from the rest in a positive way.

Permission to use: Michael Bloch/ThinkHost, Inc/http://www.thinkhost.com/Earth-friendly web hosting/
Assisting community groups since 1999
Press-Print

World Communications Day

Presented by the
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.,
Media Apostolate
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

PRESS/PRINT MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

This is media that is truly unique – a great subject. Like the telephone it is directed toward the use of an individual but unlike the telephone, the printed word lasts long after the moment is gone and the individual is gone. This is a good opportunity for librarians and educators to get involved with World Communications Day.

Establish a committee that consists of 3 to 5 people. Specific duties should be assigned to each committee member.

1. A person responsible for gathering information for presentation on the table, i.e., how modern data storage has evolved from papyrus to the printing press to sophisticated computer memory chips (RAM and ROM) and to removable disk print data, voice data and movie data storage devices: CDs, DVDs, MP3 files.

2. A person to be in charge of gathering information on Catholic books, magazine, periodicals, Catholic and local newspapers

3. A person to seek out Religious Ed teachers in Catholic schools and CCD teachers. These teachers could incorporate courses or lectures on the media for their students and perhaps submit said material for Press/Print Media table display.

4. A person to be in charge of gathering hands-on information.
Display could include:

- Catholic bible, adult and children’s version
- Catholic books and tapes for sale from local Christian Book Store representative
- Samples of Catholic magazines and periodicals along with mail in subscription forms
- Samples of Catholic newspapers
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Material from teachers concerning Catholic media for education

Handouts could include:

- Place a list of publishers of Catholic books, magazines and periodicals on the table
- Locate a current banned book list
- Free catalogs obtained from the Resources list (see below)

Resources for Free Catalogues

1. Eternal Life
   902 W. Stephen Foster Avenue
   Bardstown, KY  40004
   1-800.842.2871
   www.lifeeternal.org

2. Ignatius Press
   P.O. Box 1339
   Ft. Collins, CO  80522
   1-800.651-1531
   www.ignatius.com

3. All Things Family (Educational/Entertainment Values)
   P.O. Box 30204
   Salt Lake, Utah  84130-0204
   1-800.326.4590
   www.allthingsfamily.com
4. Presentation Ministries, Inc.
   3230 McHenry
   Cincinnati, OH  45211
   1-513.662.5378
   www.presentationministries.com
   Email for publications & tapes:
   pubsandtapes@presentationministries.com

   P.O. Box 424
   Rockford, IL  62205
   1-800.437.5846
   www.tanbooks.com

6. Pauline Books and Media
   50 Saint Paul Avenue
   Boston, MA  02130-3491
   1-800.836.9723
   www.pauline.org

7. Our Sunday Visitor
   200 Noll Plaza
   Huntington, IN  46750
   1-800.348.2440
   www.osv.com

8. St. Joseph Communications
   1-800.526.2151
   www.saintjoe.com

9. Marians of the Immaculate Conception (Divine Mercy)
   Eden Hill
   Stockbridge, MA  01263
   1-800.462.7426
   www.thedivinemercy.org
10. Catholic Parish Web sites (when available)
   **Important Information i.e., Mass schedule, Reconciliation, Adoration, etc.

11. Excellent Book: Catholics On The Internet by Brother John Raymond

12. Your Catholic Book Stores – *Promote and support your Catholic Book Stores*
Novena Prayer to Saint Maximilian Kolbe

O Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "greater love than this no man has, that a man lay down his life for his friends," through the intercession of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, whose life illustrated such love, we beseech you to grant us our petitions . . .

*(here mention the requests you have)*

Through the Militia Immaculata movement, which Saint Maximilian founded, he spread a fervent devotion to Our Lady throughout the world. He gave up his life for a total stranger and loved his persecutors, giving us an example of unselfish love for all men - a love that was inspired by true devotion to Mary.

Grant, O Lord Jesus, that we too may give ourselves entirely without reserve to the love and service of our Heavenly Queen in order to better love and serve our fellowman in imitation of your humble servant, Saint Maximilian. Amen.

*(Say 3 Hail Marys and a Glory Be)*
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

RADIO MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

In general, radios are used as sources of information (news), or for entertainment (talk shows) or just for pleasure (music). We need to use this media to get the message out to all Radio listeners about Christ and what He said we are to do to gain eternal life. In addition, we want to use the media of the radio to strengthen and fortify the faith of those Catholics who do listen to Catholic radio.

Radio Media coordinator/chairman should select a committee that consists of at least three (3) people. Duties of the committee should include:

- Locate Catholic radio stations in the area.
- Solicit a representative from the local radio station to be at the Radio Media display table to promote their radio station and answer questions.
- Coordinate a table presentation that consists of posters, program listings, freebies, such as, magnets and other handouts.

RADIO STATION INFORMATION:

1. Develop list of Catholic Radio stations of America.
   www.stjosephradio.com/pages/directory.htm
   www.ewtn.com/radio
   www.relevantradio.com

2. Contact the Catholic Radio Association for information on how to start a Catholic Radio Station:
   Catholic Radio Association
   121Broad St.
   Charlestown, SC  29401
   www.catholicradioassociation.org
3. For information on a list of suppliers of Catholic Radio programming visit: www.catholicity.com/links/catagories.html?catid=139

4. Establish a speakers network from Parish organizations with speakers that are willing to appear on local Radio talk shows to evangelize the faith:
   a. Knights of Columbus
   b. Parish Women/Men organizations
   c. RCIA
   d. Deacons
   e. Eucharistic Ministers
   f. Director of Religious Education (DRE)

   (Topics should consist of important information for the promotion of WCD).

SUGGESTED TABLE DISPLAY:

1. Promote local radio stations as an advertiser for your organization’s special events.


3. Promote audio tapes/CD’s/DVD’s of Christian talks given by well known speakers.


5. Handouts should consist of:
   a. Support Catholic Radio. Have a list of those in your area. Check with EWTN Global Catholic Network Affiliates:

   http://www.ewtn.com/radioamfm.htm
b. Make business cards with refrigerator magnets listing the name and number of your local Catholic Radio Station for easy access.

c. Give out your local Catholic Radio Station’s program schedule, or any other freebies they may offer.

d. Give handouts that explain how to subscribe to SIRIUS Satellite Radio so your Radio listeners can hear EWTN Radio anywhere in the continental United States while traveling anywhere from coast to coast or at home even though they do not have EWTN radio in their city. For details go to:

http://www.ewtn.com/sirius/index.asp

e. Check with the Catholic Radio Association (Gabriel Awards) for resources that you can use for your table at:

http://www.catholicradioassociation.org/resources.htm

f. Information on National Radio (Knom, Alaska):

www.knom.org

**RESOURCES:**

1. Father John A. Hardon, S.J. media
   www.fatherhardonmedia.org

2. Daughters of St. Paul/James Alberione
   www.daughtersofstpaul.com

3. The Station of the Cross-Catholic Radio/Relevant Radio
   www.wlof.net
   www.relevantradio.com

4. Catholic Broadcasting Northwest Inc.
   www.kbvm.com

5. Catechism Of The Catholic Church
   *The Use of the Social Communication Media - #2493 through #2499*

6. The Catholic Catechism
   *A Contemporary Catechism of the Teachings of the Catholic Church By John A Hardon, S.J.*
O God,
who from among all your angels
chose the Archangel Gabriel
to announce the mystery of the Incarnation,
mercifully grant that we
who solemnly remember him on earth
may feel the benefit of his patronage in heaven,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.
Electronic Media – Radio Guest Speaker Notes

How to be a guest speaker for a radio program
- Radio requires a pleasant, inviting and an interesting voice.
- You will be judged and topic accepted, mostly on your voice.
- Make a list of available radio stations in your area.
- Know the kind of program it is.
- Know how long the program is and time yourself.
- Know the host interviewer of the program.
- Know the program’s listening audience.
- Write a bio and a short paragraph about your subject.
- Contact the program director and ask to be a guest speaker.
- Do not go alone.
- Select a topic the program director wants and needs.
- Select a topic that you know, can discuss, and be questioned about.
- You may send the interviewer six to eight topic sentences in question form.
- Topic sentences are an outline to guide you through the program.
- These six to eight topic sentences will help the interviewer.
- These topic sentences assist the program to “flow”.
- These topic sentences can give you confidence.
- A “Father Hardon talk”, makes an excellent topic for a program.
- Example, “The Art of Forming the Conscience of a Child”.
- Throughout the program, smile and convince everyone, this is fun.
- To be invited back, make friends with everyone.
- Ask for a tape to critique your talk.
- Ask others to evaluate your performance and to offer suggestions.

Phrases to use to get your message out
- May I suggest
- By all means
- All of this is possible
- As you know
- The best way
- Be assured
- It helps immensely
- The important thing
- Where do I begin?
- Our Lord is giving you
- It is a privilege
- In answer to your question
- In case you have not been able to
- Perhaps I did not make myself clear

(WCD – 40)
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

TELEVISION MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

Get the local TV station involved (Catholic if possible). Obtain information from the station as to how to promote World Communications Day.

- Invite the Catholic TV station representative to be at the Television Media table to promote their station and answer any questions the visitors may ask. (A possible TV station presentation on WCD).
- Invite other diocesan or archdiocesan TV station or communication media agencies to also participate.

Evangelize

If every Catholic called their cable company to ask for wholesome family entertainment, the cable companies would have to change their deviant programming direction. We can make a difference but we have to let them know that we do not want their immorality. Remember that **YOU** are what you see and hear. And think about some of the younger people who were never grounded in the gospel principles of life before unprincipled programming took over. We cannot let unknown program managers and the technological media companies use the television media to dictate their version of morality to us. The television media belongs to all of us (we pay for it) and we have a God given right to receive the **Truth** through this media. Just when you think you have hit the bottom of the trash that they put out, program managers always find another level of low that you never dreamed existed. We have the Church here to guide us out of this mess. **We need to take World Communications Day from the table displays into the real world and change it to match the gospel message of Jesus Christ.**

- Get your cable company involved. Invite the program managers to offer a basic cable package approved by the Roman Catholic Church. In the same breath ask them to put together a Movie Channel that is also approved by the Roman Catholic Church. We have to start somewhere, sometime and someplace. Why not now?
SUGGESTED TABLE DISPLAY

1. Have TV with built-in DVD player on the table

2. Explain how people can tape local Christian events to give to the local (Catholic, if possible) television stations to air.

3. Have samples of written announcements of Christian events to put up on the bulletin board of the local Christian/City secular network television stations. Community bulletin board announcements are free of charge. *(See sample bulletin board announcement).*

4. Guidelines on how to complain to your cable company that they are not showing and offering enough good and wholesome family type of shows and movies. *Use suggested guideline for “Calling Tree” located in Section E – Telephone Media Table Exhibit to flood the cable company phone lines.*

**Tips for Letter writing**

1. Submit letter of compliment/complaint within 24 hours.
2. Be brief and specific. Make the chief points first.
3. Address it to an individual (CEO, producer, etc.)
4. State name and time of program you are referring to.
5. Write strongly and be charitable if complaining.
6. A good phrase to use is, “It would appear that”…
7. In general keep in mind the basic elements of persuasion: to teach, to delight, and to move people.
For Phone Use

1. Plan your conversation using above guidelines.
2. Remember; use a positive attitude approach.
3. Make positive suggestions for good and wholesome family type shows and movies.
4. Elicit a timely response commitment.
5. Use a good phrase, “When can I expect a change in programming?”
6. Close with; “Thank you for your time and consideration.”

Plant the seed and let God do the rest

Handouts could include:

- Sample for bulletin board announcement,
- Sample for tips for letter writing/phone conversation,
- A list of local Catholic TV Stations,
- A name, address, phone, and email list of local and national secular TV Stations,
- A resource list of local cable companies to use for letter writing campaign to add Christian Station to their basic package,
SAMPLE

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

(Be very brief and specific)

Title of Event________________________________________________________

Date_______________________________________________

Time_______________________________________________

Place_______________________________________________

Contact Name and Telephone Number_______________________________

________________________________________________________

Mail to your local television channel
Prayer To Saint Clare

O Saint Clare, to whom God revealed Himself even on this earth, help us to see His divine wisdom in the marvelous developments of science and technology, so that we may use them in such wise as will lead us to the eternal vision of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Clare, patroness of television, pray for us!
Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory be to the Father
VATICAN CITY, OCT. 25, 2005 (Zenit.org).- The Holy See is organizing an international congress geared toward those working in the field of Catholic television.

Archbishop John Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, confirmed the news today.

The U.S. prelate said the event will have "much more to do than study the history of the Church's involvement in television, which -- unfortunately -- has been all too limited." No dates have been set for the event.

The congress, he added, will have to answer several questions.

"First, it would help all of us to know about one another -- to exchange our experiences and also to see if we can exchange our productions," the prelate said.

"Second, is it possible to define a role for Catholic television which will complement and not compete with what is done on major public or private television channels?" the Vatican official asked. "We do not want to do harm to those broadcasters who have helped religion in general and the Catholic Church in particular so much over so many years.

"Third, can we establish networks which can share programs of quality but which will not interfere with local programming with a more direct appeal to the audience?"

"Fourth," he continued, "how can satellite channels, direct broadcast television and the Internet be integrated into an overall communications policy for the Church?

"Fifth, what should be the nature of Catholic television stations or networks? Should they be devotional, service oriented, informational -- or a little bit of everything? Should they be supported through advertising or through direct viewer donations -- or both?

"Sixth, how can the effectiveness of religious television be measured -- whether on public channels or on Catholic stations? Are we providing a service for all, are we evangelizing or are we 'saving the saved' -- reaching those who are already convinced and providing them with additional spiritual nourishment?"

Madrid to be host

This congress, the preparation for which is already under way, will include the participation of Catholic television stations as well as Catholic producers who offer material for these stations and networks, Archbishop Foley noted.
"We are grateful that the Archdiocese of Madrid has kindly offered to host our congress -- and we are very aware that more Catholics speak Spanish than any other language -- but that the Spanish-speaking of the world are under a type of 'spiritual siege' from fundamentalist Christian sects," he continued.

"Just a few days ago, Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, predicted that, within a few years, there will be no need for telephone or television service independent of the Internet," the archbishop said. "In pondering the future of Catholic television, therefore, we must consider what will be the future of television itself -- and how can we anticipate and not merely react to what will be the reality in communications 10 years from now."
TELEVISION: REDUCING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT

Television has a tremendous influence on how children view our world. Many youngsters spend more hours watching television from birth to 18 years of age than they spend in the classroom. The positive aspects of television viewing include seeing different lifestyles and cultures. Children today are entering school more knowledgeable than children before the era of television. In addition, television has great entertainment value. Although television can be a good teacher, many children watch it excessively and therefore experience some of the negative consequences described below.

HARMFUL ASPECTS OF TELEVISION

1. **Television displaces active types of recreation.** It decreases time spent playing with peers. A child has less time for self-directed daydreaming and thinking. Television takes away time for participating in sports, music, art, or other activities that require practice to achieve competence.

2. **Television interferes with conversation and discussion time.** It reduces social interactions with family and friends.

3. **Television discourages reading.** Reading requires much more thinking than television. Reading improves a youngster's vocabulary. A decrease in reading scores may be related to too much time in front of the television.

4. **Heavy television viewing (more than 4 hours per day) definitely reduces school performance.** This much television interferes with study, reading, and thinking time. If children do not get enough sleep because they are watching television, they will not be alert enough to learn well on the following day.

5. **Television discourages exercise.** An inactive lifestyle leads to poor physical fitness. If accompanied by frequent snacking, watching television may contribute to weight problems.

6. **Television violence can affect how a child feels toward life and other people.** Viewing excessive violence may cause a child to be overly fearful about personal safety and the future. Television violence may numb the sympathy a child normally feels toward victims of human suffering. Young children may be more aggressive in their play after seeing violent television shows.

PREVENTION OF TELEVISION ADDICTION

1. **Encourage active recreation.** Help your child become interested in sports, games, hobbies, and music. Occasionally turn off the television and take a walk or play a game with your child.

2. **Read to your children.** Begin reading to your child by 1 year of age and encourage him to read on his own as he becomes older. Some parents help children earn television or video game time by spending an equivalent time reading. Help your child improve his conversational skills by spending more of your time talking with him.

3. **Limit television time to 2 hours per day or less.** An alternative is to limit television to 1 hour on school nights and 2 or 3 hours per day on weekends. You occasionally may want to allow extra viewing time for special programs.

4. **Don't use television as a distraction or a babysitter for preschool children.** Preschoolers' viewing should be limited to special television shows and videotapes that are produced for young children. Because the difference between fantasy and reality is not clear for this age group, regular television shows may cause fears.

5. **If your child is doing poorly in school, limit television time to ½ hour each day.** Make a rule that homework and chores must be finished before television is watched. If your child's favorite show is on before he can watch, try to record it for later viewing.

6. **Set a bedtime for your child that is not altered by television shows that interest your child.** Children who are allowed to stay up late to watch television are usually too tired the following day to remember what they are taught in school. By all means, don't permit your child to have a television set in his bedroom because this eliminates your control over television viewing.

7. **Turn off the television set during meals.** Family time is too precious to be squandered on television shows. In addition, don't have the television always on as a background sound in your house. If you don't like a quiet house, try to listen to music without lyrics.

8. **Teach critical viewing.** Turn the television on only for specific programs. Don't turn it on at random and scan for something interesting. Teach your child to look first in the program guide.

9. **Teach your child to turn off the television set at the end of a show.** If the television stays on, your child will probably become interested in the following show and then it will be more difficult for your child to stop watching.

10. **Encourage your child to watch some shows that are educational or teach human values.** Encourage watching documentaries or real-life dramas. Use programs about love, sex, family disputes, drinking, and drugs as a way to begin family discussions on these difficult topics.

11. **Forbid violent television shows.** This means you have to know what your child is watching and turn off the television set when you don't approve of the program. Develop separate lists of programs that are acceptable for older and younger kids to watch. Make your older children responsible for keeping the younger ones out of the television room at these times.

12. **Set a good example.** If you watch a lot of television, you can be sure your child will also. The types of programs you watch also send a clear message to your child.
Electronic Media – Television Guest Speaker Notes

SPEAKER
A pleasant voice, one that attracts.
Must be an expert on the subject.
Never go to the studio alone.
If requested present a short bio and a paragraph on your subject.
Laughter is a plus, only if your subject permits it.
The medium is the message. What they perceive they believe.
Consider both what is happening and what is perceived to be happening.
The more attractive the more convincing, that’s just the way it is.

SPEECH
Examine your conscience and choose your speech carefully.
Choose when you will talk and when to keep silent.
Most people do not know what they say.
Most people do not think, what they should say.
Plan what you will say.
Plan with whom or about what you will say.
Control your speech.
To control one’s speech is very important.
When “bullied”, take care, don’t give in, your reply is a warm smile.
Know that silence is a spiritual experience.
Remember you have an important message and you must do everything to get your message out in a limited amount of time.
Consider the most important thing that must be said and be sure to say it.
If possible say the important sentence at the beginning, middle and end.
Throughout the whole program smile, appear relaxed and confident.
To make your message accepted, make your message loveable.

A DIFFICULT CASE FOR THE TRUTH
We must prepare as a lawyer would for an important case.
Think of all the angles, the objections and so on.
Know your material, your client, his background and motives.
Do your research.
You cannot use hearsay.
It is not enough to tell someone they have to do it, or it is right because “so and so said so.” That is sloth.
Research the writings of the Fathers of the Church, of the Saints, of Popes and the Councils of the Church. Be able to quote these easily and rationally.
VISUAL MEDIA
Television requires colors that complement. Attire should be considered. It is suggested we watch TV and know what attire is worn, colors to wear. Posture is very important. Body language communicates a message. Attractive and well groomed. Again the medium is the message, if they like what they see they believe.

FOR YOUR INTERVIEW
Practice and practice. Do a “run through interview” with one that knows the subject and media. Have an after the program evaluation.

PHRASES TO MAKE SURE YOUR MESSAGE GETS OUT, OR A WAY TO INTERRUPT
May I suggest
By all means
All of this is possible
As you know
The best way
Be assured
It helps immensely
The important thing
Where do I begin
Our Lord is giving your
It is a privilege
In answer to your question
In case you have not been able to
Perhaps I did not make myself clear
VISIT: EWTN STREAMING AUDIO AND VIDEO

Life On The Rock, with a down-to-earth former financier and jock turned priest as host, is the only international Catholic TV program aimed at teens and young adults. Wearing his patched brown Franciscan habit, Father Francis Mary Stone features well-known guests on this fast-paced show, such as Jesse Romero, Tommy LaSorda, Kerri Caviezel, Fr. John Corapi, and Fr. Stan Fortuna.

Although the Thursday night (8:00 – 9:00 ET) show hits pertinent topics relevant to young people, Life On The Rock viewers have also favored a different sort of guest - the professed religious. Young women and men who have given their lives to serve the Lord speak boldly about their work and their journeys. Real people, just like you, your next door neighbor, your high-school sweetheart.

What's behind the success of this show? Father Francis Mary Stone began hosting the seven-year old Life On The Rock in late 2002, bringing to it a "straight-forward, no-nonsense, let's get real and honest" attitude. Young people have responded with a hearty and grateful, "Yeah, God!" With the moral authority to speak on issues that challenge young people today, Father Francis uses his sense of humor – occasionally referred to as "offbeat, dry, and a bit raw" – to bring joy, authentic Catholic truth and reinforce a positive spiritual reality. As spiritual sons of EWTN’s Foundress, Mother Angelica, Father Francis and the friars are thrilled to continue the legacy created by Mother Angelica, renowned for her use of "holy wisecracks," in teaching the simple truths of the Catholic faith.

Father Francis has a special message for young men when he asks, “Is it macho to love Jesus?” He dispels the myth that church is for girls, and that real men don't cry, love Jesus or eat quiche. Father Francis says, “For a variety of reasons, sometimes Catholicism, really 'religion' in general, can be seen as overtly feminine. Though we certainly don't ignore the 'genius of women' on Life on the Rock, we do want to let the guys know that Jesus Christ was a true 'man's man' and the guys need to get on board.” He and his fellow friars can relate to where the youth are “coming from.”

“Most of us were originally moving towards careers, in or just out of college, and then we were thrown into something that we had never really picked on our own. Just regular basically decent human beings living our lives in the typical way when we were called. We want to show the world that reality of the power and truth of our Catholic faith.”

As host of Life On The Rock, Father Francis looks for help from members of his community of Friars. This group of priests and brothers are the wheels that keep Life On The Rock in motion. Father Anthony Mary, the community's vocation director and Director of Postulants, joins him for the introductory segment of the show. Although he has no official title, he has been called "sidekick, co-host, and Franciscanator,” according to the show's producer, Amalia Zea. Friends for 11 years, the two priests admit to a willingness to allow themselves to laugh at each other without compromising their dignity. Father Anthony takes a lot of fraternal potshots from Father Francis who is not afraid to reciprocate.

Father Mark Mary Cristina holds a degree in Physics and operates the popular “Friar Cam,” giving the program a touch of “Reality TV.” Deacon Dominic Mary Garner, who will be ordained to the priesthood in June 2004, serves as Associate Producer of the show, and is responsible for screening questions and emails. "We get lots of phone calls," he says, adding, "I can keep a pulse of the show and decide which emails or calls will be best to answer on-air. Having known Father Francis for ten years helps, too."
Brother Peter Mary Lawson regularly operates one of the cameras for the show and Brother Leo Mary, of EWTN’s popular children's shows Faith Factory and Hey, Brother Leo, serves as Life On The Rock floor director. In working on the program, each of the friars gives up personal time that they might otherwise enjoy in a different community of religious. Truly living the lives of missionaries and keeping the vows of radical poverty, chastity and obedience exhibited by their founder, St. Francis of Assisi, these media missionaries are an inspiring and interesting lot.

The show’s 27-year old producer, Amalia Zea, understands Life On The Rock’s target audience. “It’s basically the 20 something + group,” she says, “and there's a lot of us in that group.” But, Father Francis cautions against too narrowly defining the show’s audience. “Maybe you would be surprised, but since lots of EWTN’s viewers are older, many longtime viewers of Life On The Rock are senior citizens, and they love us!” As for the guests on the show, according to Father Francis, there is a litmus test. “It is their great love for Our Lady, the Eucharist, the Pope, great respect for Mother Angelica and a basic understanding of the mission of EWTN.”

“How can you live the Faith out loud?” Father Francis has the answer: ”Be proud of being Catholic. The guests are all boldly Catholic - without the baggage of arrogance. There is a boldness needed. Catholics can be a little beat back, especially right now. The world has done a job on Catholic moral teaching and with the scandals getting a lot of play in the media, we've just got to be bold. And faithful. And spiritual. And loud.” Associate Producer Deacon Dominic, says faith is: “Not being ashamed of being a Catholic in our society. Not censoring what is being presented to avoid offending people. We hit contemporary topics but put the truth of the faith out there and let the chips fall where they may.” And they do. Ever since the program began, Life On The Rock has communicated with today’s youth. Says the Holy Father, John Paul II, “Youth of the World, you are my hope.” Father Francis says, “That’s what this simple show is all about.”

Future guests to be featured on Life On The Rock include: Broadway star Jennifer Naimo-Morales, popular speaker and author Jason Evert and his wife Crystallina Evert of Catholic Answers, Ann and Susie Brawley, the Founders of Youth 2000, popular speaker and author Father Tim Devine, a blind Canadian priest, and the Sisters of Mother Mary of the Eucharist. Father Francis is particularly looking forward to an upcoming on-location episode on board an aircraft carrier with U.S. Navy chaplain, Father Joe Coffey, and covering World Youth Day 2005 in Germany.

Contact:  EWTN  
http://www.ewtn.com  AL, US  
Susan Wood - Media Services, 205 - 271-2900, x4014  
Keywords:  Catholic Youth, Mother Angelica, Franciscan  
Category: Catholic Church
Telephone

World Communications Day

Presented by the
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.,
Media Apostolate
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

TELEPHONE MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

The telephone committee should promote the importance of the telephone as a means of social communication and evangelization that has literally changed the world. The telephone is the basis for the best interconnectivity between an individual and the social organization mankind has developed. Man’s ingenuity will continue to develop institutions and organizations to service his needs through the use of this media of communication. How do you use the telephone to evangelize? The telephone can be used for good or evil. We need to emphasize and promote the good uses of the telephone, which are actually in many cases corporal works of mercy.

POSITIVE TELEPHONE EVANGELIZATION

Have literature that explains all the positive ways phones can be used for the betterment of mankind. The use of the phone for good is endless. Whenever we use the telephone for good we are evangelizing this media.

- The telephone provides many valuable services for individuals at their fingertips.
- Telephones literally have extended the ability of people to communicate with other people beyond their immediate geographic location for information, i.e. America Needs Fatima, Divine Mercy, Respect Life, etc.
- For evangelization,
- For help to buy and sell merchandize for religious organization, i.e. World Communication Day, Adoration Chapels, etc.,
- To schedule medical appointments (our personal responsibilities),
- For caring conversation between family, friends and those in need,
- For prayer lines,

The use of the phone is endless! Father John A. Hardon, S.J. cautioned that the phone is a source of great good or evil. Father suggested never pick up the phone without a short prayer and Holy Water
SUGGESTED TABLE DISPLAY:

1. A picture of a person using the phone to promote and maintain church organizations or for prayer requests.

Suggested guidelines for a “Calling Tree”

PRAYER LINE GUIDELINES

- The prayer chain always starts at the top and works down to the bottom.

- If you reach an answering machine, leave a message, and then call the next person on the list.

- If you reach a spouse, child or other family member leave a message and call the next person on the list.

- The last person on the list will call the first person to ensure that the message has reached all and that the chain is not broken. If unable to reach her/him call the next person on the list.

- If someone in the middle of the list gets a prayer request, please call the first person so that the complete routine may be followed.

- If anyone prefers to use e-mail, please send your email address to the initial contact person. A new list will be reissued with email information.

- When contacted for prayer, it is each person's responsibility to do two things:

  1) Pray for the intention requested
  2) Pass the prayer request on to the next person.

- Please keep all prayers involving personal matters in complete confidence. If you feel compelled to include others, not on the chain, in your prayer request, keep it nonspecific. (Example: Please pray for a special intention for Pat.)

- If you would like, you can at any time link with other prayer chains for a particular need. The first person on the list will simply call the first person on their list as well, if requested.
Pope John Paul II indicated that people sometimes say they don’t know how to pray. “How to pray? This is a simple matter. I would say: Pray any way you like, so long as you do pray. You can pray the way your mother taught you; you can use a prayer book. Sometimes it takes courage to pray; but it is possible to pray, and necessary to pray whether from memory or a book or just in thought. It is all the same.

Remember, there are many ways to pray:

- Formal prayers learned through the church,
- Scripture reading and meditation,
- Offering up pain and suffering with a willing heart,
- Fasting, abstaining, self-denial,
- Song,
- Listening to God in your heart,
- Meditation in nature,
- Original prayers from the heart,
- Church attendance

2. Use identifiable community service pamphlets and a list of emergency phone numbers, i.e. your local Fire, Ambulance and Police Departments in an emergency – 911.

a. Picture of a phone being used to call and check on the sick and elderly.
b. Picture of a phone being used by the sick and elderly to get help.
c. Picture of someone at a Crisis Intervention Service talking on a hotline phone to someone who needs help (check your local phone book for your Crisis Intervention Service number).
d. Picture of a young girl calling the Catholic Pregnancy hotline in her diocese.
3. Check your local Diocese for information on available services:
   a. Disabled.
   b. For all Catholic Education related topics
   c. Health services.
   d. Substance abuse.
   e. Youth services.
   f. Senior citizens
   g. All types of counseling needs.

4. Show how the phone is useful as a powerful tool to promote and influence those who produce newspapers, magazines, books, radio, television and movie shows.
   a. Positive Communication – appreciative acknowledgment for the good that they are doing to protect morality and the truths of our faith.
   b. Negative Communication – disapproval for the breakdown of morality in their written, spoken and visual presentations.

5. A cell phone, a video cell phone, a base phone with multiple cordless headphones, an Internet phone, and a videoconference phone could be displayed on the table.

6. **Activity at the table** - show how the phone is used to keep the family in touch and together. Actually have children use a cell phone to say “Hello, I love you.” to a family member that they have not spoken to recently.
SUGGESTED HANDOUTS:

1. Telephone etiquette list – suggestions for how to use a phone properly. Learn/review the basic phone courtesy we should all practice as Christians when we talk to other people over the phone.

   Visit:  http://library.thinkquest.org/2993/phone.htm

2. Emergency hotline pamphlets/magnets – 911, pregnancy, suicide, aid for the elderly, etc. This type of information falls under the category of a corporal work of mercy for those who need these services but don’t know how or where to get this information because they may have never needed it before. We need to be aware of how we can help one another.

3. Phone list (magnet) of current senior citizen services. A thoughtful way to evangelize our concern for the elderly.

4. Business card size booklet for important name and phone number of people we may need to call while away from home – something that can be slipped easily into the purse, pocket or wallet.
Prayer to Saint Bernadine of Siena

Dear Saint of the Franciscan Order, you were a tireless preacher of God's Saving Word. By your growing love for Jesus you spread that love all around, advertising his Holy Name. Be kind to advertisers in our frantic times. Make them broadcast only what is true and what can serve the well-being of humankind, while doing all for the glory of God. Amen.
Communications Career

World Communications Day

Presented by the Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., Media Apostolate
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

COMMUNICATIONS CAREERS

MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

One of the fastest growing careers in the United States, according to the U. S. Department of Labor is communication. It touches every facet of our modern culture and could even be considered the nucleus of all art forms. It is, in fact, the transmitter that causes people to partake of information in a variety of ways. Whether it is through the electronic, printed or spoken word, the canvas or the camera, the radio or television, satellites, telephone or the internet, bill boards or flashing signs, ideas are sent out that will form and transform our societies.

As Catholics we should encourage our young people to pursue a Communications Degree and a solid education with a good mentor, and then go on to serve the Church and society in their area of skill and high interest. It is essential that people who go into the field of Communications be furnished with defensive information and training on the truths of our Faith. For only through the communication of truths can we prosper as the people of God.

SUGGESTED TABLE DISPLAY

1. If possible, invite a celebrity of Radio, TV, and Movies, who has graduated with a Communications degree to give autographs and words of encouragement to information career seekers.

2. If a celebrity or college representative is not available, have a tape recorder with a tape of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen talking from his “Life is Worth Living” TV show or have a DVD playing on a small TV. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is known as one of the greatest communicators of the 20th century.
3. Contact local and national colleges and universities that offer degrees in Communications. Invite college/university representatives to come and host the table (2 or 3 representatives from different schools would be great). School schedule, lists of curriculum and catalogues should be available as handouts. (A parishioner from the host parish with a degree in Communication would also be a good resource for answering questions).

4. Have a sampling of text, magazines and journals on mass communication.

5. Display pictures of well-known personalities of communication such as:
   - Jesus Christ (the greatest communicator of all time)
   - The apostles
   - Pope John Paul II
   - Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
   - Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
   - Mother Teresa
   - Mother Angelica – world communicator/speaker/author
   - Jeff Cavins
   - Drew Marioni – Relevant Radio
   - Father Groeschel – author/lecturer
   - Blessed James Alberione – Founder of Daughters of St. Paul
   - Mary Regina Morrell – mother of 6 – Syndicated columnist
   (It would be a good idea to also include local people; perhaps any Catholics involved in secular media outlets).

**SUGGESTED TABLE SET-UP**

1. Table cloth
2. Basket of Red apples to represent education instead of flowers and candy.
3. Have a selection of handouts available.
4. Scatter pictures of well-known personalities of communication on table.

**SUGGESTED HANDOUTS**

1. Prepare list of Internet sites with information on communication. Search for “Catholic Communications” on the Internet.
   http://www.daughtersofstpaul.com/mediastudies/index.html
2. The oldest and largest national organization serving the academics of communication is (NCA) National Communication Association. They are located at www.natcom.org. You will be able to develop a packet of information from this site.

3. Have list of careers in the Field of Communications Studies in Higher Education available in detail from the NCA site at http://www.natcom.org/ComProg/deptlist.htm. This gives you a list of links to departments and schools.

4. To support communication programs, the NCA National Office offers a communications poster entitled “What you can do with a degree in communications?” and a colorful and informative booklet entitled “Pathways to Careers in Communication.”
   http://www.natcom.org/ComProg/Commposter.htm

5. If you have representatives from colleges, ask them for their brochures, note pads, decals, and pens.

6. Have a list of famous Communication Graduates and what they excel in. Search for “Famous Communication Graduates.”

   Archbishop John P. Foley has a degree in journalism from Columbia University.
Saint Augustine of Hippo

Prayer to Seek God Continually

O Lord my God, I believe in you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Insofar as I can, insofar as you have given me the power, I have sought you. I became weary and I labored.

O Lord my God, my sole hope, help me to believe and never to cease seeking you. Grant that I may always and ardently seek out your countenance. Give me the strength to seek you, for you help me to find you and you have more and more given me the hope of finding you.

Here I am before you with my firmness and my infirmity. Preserve the first and heal the second.

Here I am before you with my strength and my ignorance. Where you have opened the door to me, welcome me at the entrance; where you have closed the door to me, open to my cry; enable me to remember you, to understand you, and to love you. Amen.
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

RESOURCES FOR CAREERS IN COMMUNICATIONS

http://www.catholicleaders.org
http://www.daughtersofstpaul.com
http://www.catholicacademy.org
http://www.kbvm.com
http://www.knom.org/about.htm ***Knom, Alaska
http://www.natcom.org/instruction/Pathways *** National Communications Assoc.
http://www.find-online-colleges.org/visualcommunications
http://www.cofc.edu/communication
http://www.helpaboutcollege.com/visual-communication-school
http://www.careertrainingguide.net/visualcommunications.htm
http://www.3danimationschools.com
http://www.onlinbemasterdegree.com/resources.htm
http://www.gicentralcatholic.org/gicc/npeters
http://www.gicentralcatholic.org/gicc/choward
http://www.gradschools.comlistings/Europe/comm_europe.html ***European Schools
http://www.escape.ca/~jclong/webfut.htm ***Ottawa, Ontario
http://www.procyongraphics.com/best_journalism_schools.htm ***best journalism sch
http://www.collegesdirectory.com/location/8631/usa/california.html
http://www.collegesurfing.com
http://www.atlanticvideo.com/clients/ccom/
http://www.catholic.org/
http://www.edusmartz.com/index413.htm ***USA Universities and Colleges
http://www.jou.ufl.edu/commres/jouwww.htm ***University of Florida
http://www.degreewizard.com/photography-schools.htm ***visual journalism/movies/
http://www.collegesdirectory.com/subject/8442/top-film-schools ***Buckhead, Georgia
HANDOUTS COULD INCLUDE:

Check through the Resources available and make copies of what you think your guests would appreciate, FOR EXAMPLE:

The National Communications Association website is loaded with great information, go to: www.natcom.org/instruction/Pathways

Creighton University of Omaha, Nebraska is a Catholic, Jesuit, Coed school, go to: www.creighton.edu/FactBook/accredit.htm

The Catholic Leadership Institute, Building Catholic Leaders for Today and Tomorrow go to: www.catholicleaders.org

Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Professionals the U.S. affiliate of SIGNIS World, go to: www.catholicacademy.org

Pontifical University of the Holy Cross School of Institutional Social Communications, go to: www.pusc.it

Franciscan University of Stubenville, Communications Dept., go to: www.franuniv.edu
Evangelization

World Communications Day

Presented by the
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.,
Media Apostolate
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

EVANGELIZATION MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

The Evangelization media table exhibit should demonstrate how to use the information available at other table exhibits that defend and promote the Catholic faith.

The committee members should be familiar with all table displays and related handouts. They should be prepared to give a brief explanation of their meaning and purpose. All displays should be checked and approved three (3) weeks before the event and in total conformity to the teaching of the Catholic Church.

This committee should be made up of three or four members grounded in the true faith and understanding of evangelization. To evangelize means to be able to direct people to the truth as taught by Jesus Christ.

Committee members in order to be well informed should familiarize themselves with Father John A. Hardon, S.J.’s directives as prepared at:

[link]

This web site contains nine (9) vitally informative topics, i.e., Cinema, Television, Radio, Internet, Print/Press, Telephone, Media Response, Media Evangelization, Communication Careers.

“The resource listed under the various topics are locations on the Internet where you may go to find information on what the Roman Catholic Church teaches and to discover learned commentary on Catholic teaching from Catholic writers. There are also categories with articles that offer effective means to promote the life of the Church through the utilization of the media. The use of these recommended resources should provide the user with a solid fundamental foundation with which to spread the Good News of salvation to all of mankind.”

[1]
HOW YOU CAN USE THE MEDIA TO EVANGELIZE

START WHERE YOU LIVE

I. Know your community media services

A. Print Media – Newspaper

1. Do you have a community newspaper?
   a. Start writing letters to the editor. Be positive about your comments. See Father John A. Hardon, S.J. “Writing and the Spiritual Life” www.fatherhardon.media.org/letterwriting
   b. Use the _Catechism of the Catholic Church_ to fortify the truth on issues.

2. Get familiar with the format of the newspaper and contribute to other areas as an interested, informed citizen.

BE AN INFORMED CATHOLIC WHEN REFERRING TO MOVIE/VIDEO/DVD INDEX RATINGS.

IMPORTANT FOOTNOTES

B. Books

Visit your local library. Become familiar with the Catholic books that are available and offer suggestions for other Catholic books that could be added.

1. Become familiar with the head librarian.
   a. Inquire if certain Catholic books could be ordered, or donate those that you have that are in excellent condition. SUGGESTION: _The Catechism of the Catholic Church_.
   b. Be a regular visitor and check out the books that you want others to read. This indicates that good books are being used. Return them promptly. Inform the head Librarian what you thought of the book and recommend others for the Library.
2. Offer a catalog, i.e. Eternal Life, to the head Librarian to consider ordering new books for the Library. If possible, make a nice contribution to purchase books you recommend.

II. Technology Media

A. Visit your local Family Video Store.
   1. Talk to the store manager about offensive advertising. If necessary, get a petition going to have offensive material removed.
   2. Be ready to request Christian Videos, DVDs, and offer a current catalog for ordering convenience.

B. Go to your public library and check on the types of videos, DVDs and CDs they have.
   1. With the support of three or four friends, make a concerned citizen request that offensive books be removed.
   2. Offer a current Christian catalog to the head librarian for ordering convenience.
   3. Offer your own used but in excellent condition Videos, DVDs and CDs.
   4. Make cash donations from time to time to support your true concerns.

C. Write a positive article in the local newspaper praising the cooperation, friendliness and quality of material offered in the library.

III. Radio and Television

A. Know your local radio station and television channel.
   1. If you find your radio programs are rude, or use offensive language or anti-Catholic statements, call and let them know. Get others to also call and complain. Use the suggested guidelines for the “Calling Tree” located in “Section F – Telephone” of the manual.
   2. Follow up with letters to the broadcast manager.
   3. Write to the advertisers and tell them you will not buy their products because of the nature of the programming.
   4. Always offer positive solutions to your complaint. Remember the radio is a public service and you can choose your station.

B. Know your local television channel and learn who the channel director is.
   1. Get familiar with the community service announcements and be ready, if possible, to visit the location in person with your own announcements about i.e., World Communications Day.
2. Support your local television financially if they are doing sound Christian broadcasting.
3. Write letters to the director to encourage wholesome programs.
4. Support the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) for the same reasons.
5. Make requests for Christian programs and for reruns of special religious seasonal shows. Get several people to do the same.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD THAT HIS WORD BE HEARD!

EVANGELIZATION ENHANCED AND ENRICHED THROUGH FOLK MEDIA AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FORMS OF EXPRESSION

As stated in the document, Communion et Progressio we are to take steps to preserve and promote alternative community media, for example, the ethnic culture of a community is preserved through traditional and folk media. Folk media, such as dance, religious and secular plays, music, songs and poems are a few of the traditional forms of expression. We are to recognize that, in particular, within societies these can be more effective than newer folk media can.

Note: Catholic Encyclopedia explains: Dance Liturgical – the practice of dancing during the liturgy arose during the years after the general liturgical reform of Vatican II. Although it has occurred in various dioceses in the United States and no doubt in other countries as well, it has never been approved by the Holy See. In fact, on several occasions the Holy See, when made aware of instances of liturgical dance, has asked that the practice be discontinued. (Page 301)

SUGGESTED DISPLAYS:

Be mindful of the ethnic nature of your community. Locate Catholic information in other languages to fit the needs of the community.

- Picture of the Saint Paul in a frame.


- List of recipients of the Pope Paul VI Evangelization Award, printed, enlarged and framed. To obtain the list go to: www.usccb.org/evangelization/ppvirecipients.shtml

- Announcement flyers of upcoming Catholic Conferences.

- Tapes, CDs on Apologetics, i.e. Father Harridan’s MP Discs “Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius” and “The Church Teaches Forum 2003.”

- Have MP3 player on the table.

- Have CD player and a tape player on the table.

- Have some Eternal Life Catalogs on the table.

- Have the Catechism of the Catholic Church open on the table.

- Have a few sign up sheets for the parish RCIA program.

- Have copies of Church documents, i.e., “Communio et Progressio”. Go to: www.fatherhardonmedia.org/mri.html

Check out #6 Media articles and Church documents for more ideas.

- Have a copy of the Code of Canon Law.

- Have Marian Catechist Information – Eternal Life catalogue.

**SUGGESTED HANDOUTS:**

- Copies of the Pope’s current World Communications Day message.
- A brief oversight on how to use the media to evangelize.
- Direct people to the www.therealpresence.org/archives for
evangelization and apologetics.
- Marian Catechist pamphlets.
- Real Presence Association pamphlets.
- Vatican International Eucharistic Miracles pamphlets.
- Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Media Apostolate pamphlets.
- Eternal Life pamphlets.

RESOURCES:
- Arrange for Media Speakers to defend the faith when requested.
- Support Catholic advertising (Give examples).
- Explanation or examples of how to use the Media to promote the Catholic faith.
- Make copies of specific papal writings on the media and the WCD theme.
- www.renewalministries.net
- www.catholic.com
- www.chrislife.org/evangelization/evangelization.html
- www.vistorclaveau.com
- www.carolinacatholic.org/archive.html
- www.pauline.org/store/index.html
- www.evangelist.org/archive/hm
- www.saint-mike.org/apologetics
- www.cst-phl.com/links.html
- www.vatican.va/home_en.htm
- www.childrenofhope.org/dearparents.htm
- www.catholiceducation.org/articles/media
- www.christopher.com

**Corporal Works of Mercy**
- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Comfort the imprisoned
- Visit the sick
- Bury the dead

**Spiritual Works of Mercy**
- Admonish sinners
- Instruct the uninformed
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Be patient with those in error
- Forgive offenses
- Pray for the living and the dead
SUGGESTED TABLE DISPLAY:

- Framed table title “EVANGELATION”.
- Copies of the Pope’s current World Communications Day message with 8 X 10 framed picture of Pope Benedict XVI.
- Copy of document *Communio et Progressio* opened to page on Folk Media
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church.*
- *Modern Catholic Dictionary* by Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
- Copy of the *Code of Canon Law.*
- Reference information directing people to the Cinema, Telephone, Television, Radio, Communication Careers, Print/Press, Internet, Media Response and Media Evangelization tables.
- Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy handouts.
- List of web sites relating to evangelization.
- Framed 8 x 10 mirror to reflect the New Evangelizer for the Faith.
- Dish of individually wrapped mints (our faith takes your breath away).
- An Everlasting Plant potted plant.
- Table cover and skirt.

*Have copies of any current newspaper, magazine article concerning evangelization in the Catholic Church.*
ST. THERESE OF AVILA

Let nothing trouble you.
Let nothing scare you.
All is fleeting.
God alone is unchanging.
Patience
Obtains everything.
Who possess God
Wants nothing.
God alone suffices.
Amen
The gospel just read tells us a great deal about our responsibility. Two thousand years after Christ died and rose from the dead; we are all to spread the Gospel. Two thousand years since Jesus rose from the dead and at most over six billion people in the world, less than one billion even nominal Christians.

Dear Lord where is our zeal? What are we doing to spread the gospel? I'm not indulging in pious rhetoric. Christ proclaimed that the gospel be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

I have been preaching for more than fifty years. Christ wants His gospel proclaimed. So what are we doing? Proclaiming the gospel? Don't be silly, yet on our zeal to proclaim the gospel depends on our salvation.

God became man died on the cross on, first Good Friday ...Why? To inspire us to spread the Gospel!

What cowards we Catholics can be. In the first 300 years the lowest figure was over one million martyrs. The only reason the Church was spread is because men, women and even children were willing to proclaim the faith. I repeat what cowards we Catholics can be. Our salvation depends on our zeal to spread the faith. Our salvation depends on our zeal to bring others to the Roman Catholic faith.

Dear Lord shall I say it, What cowards we Catholics can be? Unless the early Christians had been zealous to spread the true faith there would not be a Catholic Church today.

We are living in the laziest most selfish period of Catholic history. Detroit alone has lost 40 parishes. Dear Lord we're on earth only a short time. We're made for heaven. We will be saved and reach heaven ourselves, ONLY, ONLY, ONLY, ONLY, if we bring others into the Catholic faith. Close the book!

I repeat what cowards we Catholic's can be. Over the years either ...Only God knows how many of us will reach heaven. We will not reach heaven unless we do everything in our power to bring others to the Catholic faith.

Give me the voice, the sound to speak loud and clearly to everyone of you. In God's name, I plead with you - today is January 3, 2000, unless we bring at least one person in the catholic faith by this date next year we will not reach heaven.

Dear Lord how preoccupied we can be with this world to share the faith. Dear Lord give us the zeal and courage to share our Catholic faith with everyone who enters our life.

Lord Jesus, we beg you give us the zeal and courage with everyone whose life we touch, because I repeat our salvation depends on our zeal to share our faith with everyone whose life we touch.

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We are to cultivate the art of spiritual conversation. We are forever talking to other people and in their absence what do we do, we talk to ourselves. So what is spiritual conversation? It is conversation with other people indeed. What about the things of God? About things that are sacred about our faith? About our own religious experience? About the things that pertain to our Lord, to our Lady, the saints, the Church, the Holy Eucharist, prayer, acts of piety, stories that elate to what is holy. I believe most people’s conversation most of the time is in technical language is profane conversation about the things of this world. I hope you agree. Hours on end, lost in animated conversation, about what? Except about the one Being on whom everything else depends.

Some practical suggestions. There is such a thing as being prepared for conversation. You don’t just walk into a conversation. Now of course, we don’t come with a book or two under your arm and a pad and notes, let’s see here on page seven. There’s also such a thing as cultivating the art of mastering a conversation. And the one who masters a conversation is not believe me the one that does most of the talking. A judicious question. A short comment. But we are talking about spiritual conversation. This is an art and some people never learn it. Of course, of course, from the depths of the heart as Christ tells us, the mouth speaks. We are going to be only as adept in spiritual conversation as you are interiorally united with God.

Religious letter writing can be one of the most effective channels of grace. A single letter, which we write, can change another person’s life. St. Ignatius, he would sometimes rewrite a letter seven times to make sure he was saying exactly what he thought the soul to whom he was writing needed.

Not all people have the same freedom to write letters. Not everyone has the same facility. But everyone who believes in Christ and writes letters should
be aware of the power of the written word to bring souls closer to the Savior and literally work miracles of grace in people’s lives. It does not really matter how much or how many letters are written and surely it does not matter on how long they are. What is important is that what we write will breathe the spirit of piety. That we write about the things of God. But I’m not used to it. Start getting used to it. And that our correspondence is consciously intended to bring those to whom we write closer to Jesus Christ. Otherwise as St. Ignatius stated, don’t write the letter. You’re wasting your time and your wasting the time of the person to whom you are writing. One short comment. Make sure that your letter closes with a spiritual christian closing like, sincerely yours in Christ; sincerely in our Lord, or simply in our Lady, or in the love of the Sacred Heart, and I close my letter that way also to my Jewish friends, why not?

Christ our Lord told us that, if we profess Him before men on earth He will profess us before His heavenly father. This is both a privilege and a challenge.

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Catholic Faith
Vol. 1 . #1, Sept/Oct 1995, pp. 7-10

The Urgent Call to Evangelization

Using the Electronic Media to Proclaim Christ

By John A. Hardon, S.J.

At the heart of Christianity is the duty to proclaim the Gospel. The farewell message of Christ to His disciples was to proclaim the good news of salvation to the whole world.

Needless to say, most of the world is not yet Christian and, in fact, has not even heard the teachings of Christ. What we are now facing, however, is not just a further need to continue proclaiming Jesus Christ. It is an urgent duty and, we might say, the most pressing obligation to evangelize the world in all the twenty centuries of Christian history. The burden of this presentation will be to prove this thesis. Never before, since the first Pentecost Sunday, have believers in Christ had a more grave obligation to proclaim Christ to what is still, in large measure, a Christ-less world. "What is the dimension that has entered modern history to make evangelization so imperative? It is the invention of the electronic media of communication. The Second Vatican Council does not hesitate to call them productions of divine providence which have immense power "for propagating and consolidating the kingdom of God." At the same time the Church knows that these media "can have such compelling power that people, especially if they are not prepared, may scarcely be able to recognize it or control it, or when necessary, to reject it" (Inter Mirifica, 4).

This article will focus on both aspects of the modern media of communication. Our first stress is on the use of these media to exploit the philosophy of secularism to the incalculable damage of whole nations that had once been faithfully Christian. Our second and main focus is to begin to explore the breathtaking potential of the modern media to teach the whole world what Christ told His Father, "This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

Before we look at the damaging and the sublime potential for evangelization of the modern media, we should look briefly at the impact which the media have had in shaping human thought over the centuries.

Communication Revolutions Before Modern Times

There have been three revolutionary stages in media development to the beginning of the twentieth century. Each stage had gigantic implications for religion, and especially for divinely revealed religion, over the millennia.

The first stage of development was the rise of literacy. Preliterate society has also been called tribal. Its members communicated (and communicate because they still are preliterate) by word of mouth and they received by word of ear. One effect is the high sensitivity they develop not only in speech and sound, but in taste and touch, which serve to complement the spoken word in all that one person wishes to say to another. The advent of writing opened the door to the communication of God's revealed word in the Bible.

In the meantime, however, there had to be a second stage of communication development in the discovery of phonetic writing. This meant that for the first time in history man could express his thoughts by means of single sounds expressed in a few easily remembered written forms. With the rise of the alphabet, some twenty to thirty
letters became the raw material for expressing tens of thousands of ideas, depending on the combination which these letters assumed. As noted before, this opened the door for the Holy Spirit to communicate the treasures of His infinite wisdom through the Sacred Scriptures.

Some three millennia later, the discovery of printing introduced a new revolution into Christian history. The founders of Protestantism practically identified God’s revealed word with the Bible. The Protestant reformers were not slow to use the printed word to disseminate their understanding of Christianity.

It took somewhat longer for Catholics to capitalize on printed communication to evangelize and catechize their contemporaries. But once they did, the floodgates of apostolic zeal broke loose in an avalanche of books and periodicals, pamphlets and brochures – in the millions – to spread the word of God in all the literate nations of the world.

The Negative Impact of the Media on Christianity

It would take an Augustine to do justice to the crisis in which Christianity finds itself today. Whole nations once strongly Christian, have not only abandoned their faith in Christ as their God and Savior, they have shaped the very laws of their countries in direct contradiction to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Church which He founded.

By now volumes have been written to explain this phenomenon. There is no simple explanation. But surely one of the main contributing causes has been the discovery of the modern media. The Second Vatican Council identified these media as "the press, the cinema, radio, television and others of like nature. These can rightly be called the means of social communication."

The same council recognizes that these media, for all their potential as channels of grace, can be used "in ways that are contrary to the Creator's design and damaging to (man) himself. Indeed she grieves with a mother's sorrow for the harm all too often inflicted all society by their misuse" (*Inter Mirifica*, 1 & 2).

Much has been written to analyze the devastating impact of the mass media on the Christian faith of millions. Behind this influence is the simple fact that those who control the media in large measure have the political and financial power, of a practical monopoly. One of the most uncompromising statements to this effect was made by the General of the Society of Jesus, Pedro Arrupe. In a major address to the Second Vatican Council, he identified the psychological pressures of the media with brutal clarity.

This new godless society operates in an extremely efficient manner, at least in its higher levels of leadership. It makes use of every possible means at its disposal, be they scientific, technical, social or economic. It follows a perfectly mapped out strategy. It holds almost complete sway in international organizations, in financial circles, in the field of mass communications: press, cinema, radio and television.

It is like the City of Man of Augustine. And it not only carries on the struggle against the City of God from outside the wall, but even crosses the ramparts and enters the very territory, of the City of God, insidiously influencing the minds of believer (including even religious and priests) with its hidden poison producing its inevitable fruits in the Church: naturalism, distrust and rebellion.

Arrupe paid dearly for his outspokenness, The press and networks of the Western world reacted to the exposure of their collective secularization of modern man away from the Christian faith. Yet as the speaker later publicly stated: it was Pope Paul VI who had personally recommended that an exposure be made of the uneven conflict between the secularizing media and the still-believing Christian people.
Those who have followed the phenomenal rise and growth of communism in Europe and Asia agree it was mainly the media which the followers of Karl Marx used to enslave hundreds of millions to their utopian Messianism.

**Why Evangelization Through the Media**

As we read God's providence in our day, we ask ourselves, how the Church's evangelization is being affected by the modern media. Not to know this is not to realize that the media are part of God's universal – with stress on the universal – plan of salvation.

No doubt religious instruction on a one-to-one basis remains as necessary as ever before. Christ’s personal communication of His message of salvation remains as normative as it was at the dawn of Christianity. But something new has risen with the dawn of the twentieth century. The Church now has at her disposal the power to Christianize not only individuals but whole societies. She now has the means of not only instructing individual minds in the truths revealed by the Savior. She can now help to shape and enlighten the minds of whole cultures and motivate the wills of entire continents according to the mind and will of Jesus Christ.

What is the first effect of the media on evangelization? The media collectivize those who come under its influence. We now use terms like "tribalization" and "mass participation" vaguely to describe something of what is going on. Simultaneously thousands, or even millions of persons find themselves involved in seeing; hearing and feeling the influence of a single man or woman with whom they establish instant rapport. It is the Sermon on the Mount reenacted in our day, presuming that the one who is being watched or heard is himself in rapport with Jesus Christ. After all, Christ did not speak to multitudes by mere coincidence. No, He chose to address a multitude in order to join the people with Himself – as a multitude – and unite all who heard and saw Him in a communion of mind and heart.

All the while, the persons who are simultaneously hearing and seeing a personage on this media sense a kinship among themselves for which no previous form of communication could provide. There is a sense of communion with others and a kinship of spirit which no previous means of communication could confer. Our Lord alluded to this phenomenon when He said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them."

What makes this collective experience so revolutionary on the one hand, and so marvelously promising for sharing the true faith on the other, is that it comes on the heels of a half millennium of isolated literacy. Modern man has been suddenly plunged into a deep participation with others. From a cold print culture that had been worshiping books, people are now exposed to other people with all the terrifying, and for us Christians ecstatic, possibilities of such exposure. Visual contact with lifeless print is now extended to warm intimacy with living persons where the whole person, body and soul and spirit, thought and emotion, becomes so profoundly affected and deeply influential in communicating the Gospel as to stagger the imagination.

Two hundred million joined with Pope Paul VI when he addressed the United Nations and some five hundred million have shared in the Mass and homily of John Pope John Paul II.

What needs to be stressed and reemphasized is that the new media have given us access to evangelization and catechesis that the modern world so desperately needs. There is now talk about the new age that will reunite a dismembered world. And powerful forces alien to Christ are mobilizing in this one world movement.

We must capitalize on this obvious need to unify a dismembered humanity. There is only one effective means of doing this – through propagating the Gospel of the Savior.
Not coincidentally the twentieth century has been the most homicidal in human history. There have been more death casualties in wars fought since 1900 than in all the previous centuries of human history put together. There are more legal murders of unborn children in one year than in all previous millennia in the annals of man.

Yes, with resounding emphasis, we need to unify a dismembered humanity. But the unification must be founded on the truth, which God became man to reveal to the human race. We who unworthily possess this fullness of truth, have at our service this divinely ordained means of proclaiming this truth on a scale, with an influence and with such global consequences, as our Christian evangelizers in the past never had access to.

**How to Evangelize Through the Media**

Only the Lord knows why the document on social communication has been the most neglected of the sixteen documents of the Second Vatican Council. One reason may be that this document is so outspoken in its insistence on the role of the media in the Church’s apostolate of evangelization and catechesis. After a short introduction, *Inter Mirifica* sets down its thesis: “The Catholic Church was founded by Christ our Lord to bring salvation to all men. She feels obligated, therefore, to preach the Gospel. In the same way, she believes that her task involves employing the means of social communication to announce the good news of salvation and to teach men how to use them properly.” Then follow some hard conclusions.

- The Church has a right to use these media which she considers necessary or even useful for the formation of Christians and for pastoral activity.
- The Church has a right to own these media.
- Bishops and priests have the duty to instruct and direct the faithful on how to use these media.
- The media are to be used for the salvation and perfection of both believing Christians and of all mankind.
- The laity has the principal responsibility to animate the media with a Christian and human spirit.

It is again the laity who are mainly to ensure that the media live up to God's providential purpose and the legitimate hopes of humanity.

While spelling out this divine purpose, it is assumed that believing Catholics will do everything they can to train themselves in the use of the media to exploit the apostolic opportunities that Christ now provides for His followers.

Each of the directives of the Second Vatican Council on how the media are to be used for proclaiming the faith carries with it what I do not consider an exaggeration: Catholics have to wake up to their grave responsibility in the modern world; they must be aroused from their sleep of lethargy in allowing the media to be mainly untapped for the extension of Christ’s Kingdom in our day.

**Right to the Media.** This duty of the Church's leaders is a serious duty. It is easier to talk about this than to do something. What are we saying? We are saying that Christ’s commandment to "preach the Gospel to all nations,” teaching them to "observe all that I have commanded you,” applies with thunderous implications to the media.
The Church founded by Christ has this duty, binding under pain of sin, to exploit the modern media of communication. Contrast this with the practical absence of Catholic evangelization by the media in most countries, and we begin to see the monumental task that lies ahead.

**Right to Ownership.** It is no trivial observation to add that the Church has also the “right to own these media.” How well the secularists understand the power that lies behind the ownership of the media. Ownership gives financial and political control that shapes the minds of whole continents. It is here especially that the Church depends on the laity to ensure that the media live up to God’s providential purpose and the hopes of humanity.

**Role of Bishops and Priests.** No doubt the laity have the duty to animate the media with the spirit of the Gospel. But members of the hierarchy and clergy have the parallel obligation “to instruct and direct the faithful on how to use these media.” At the heart of this obligation is the fact of contemporary history. Christ has given the Church the media precisely to evangelize the world. And within the Church those who received holy orders have the sacramental responsibility to carry on Christ’s mission as Teacher of the human race.

Pope Paul VI spelled this out in the clearest language. He was writing after the close of the general synod of bishops devoted to the question of evangelization.

“In our age which is characterized by the mass media we must not fail … to avail of the media for the first proclamation of the message, for catechetical instruction and for a deeper study of the faith.”

These, when they are employed in the service of the Gospel, can disseminate the word of God over a vast area and carry the message of salvation to millions of men. The Church would feel herself guilty before God if she did not avail herself of those powerful instruments which human skill is constantly developing and perfecting. With their aid she may preach ‘upon the housetops’ the message which has been entrusted to her. In them she finds a new and more effective form – a platform or pulpit from which she can address the multitudes (Evangelii Nuntiandi, 45).

Pope John Paul II put these directives into apostolic practice on a scale never before experienced in papal history.

**Universal Scope of the Media.** The media are, of course, to be used for the salvation and sanctification of believing Christians, But not only for professed followers of Christ. They are intended in God's providence to instruct and inspire "all mankind."

Never before have such opportunities existed for literally fulfilling the Master's commission to preach the Gospel to the whole human race. On Pentecost Sunday, people from all over the Mediterranean world miraculously received, the first public proclamation of the Gospel by the apostle Peter. Two millennia later, the Pentecostal phenomenon is now available on a universal scale beyond the wildest dreams of Peter's successors until our day.

**The Media as Channels of Grace**

The historic opportunity we now have of witnessing to Christ across the continents must be inspired by the holiness of the communicators. Their power to evangelize the multitude depends on their own union with God. They shall be as effective in bringing souls to Christ as they are themselves united with Christian faith and humility, and the practice of chastity.
This is more than the obvious giving of good example. It is nothing less than a law of supernatural generation. Holiness is reproductive. Holy people reproduce themselves in the souls of those with whom they communicate.

What a glorious prospect lies ahead for Christianizing the world as we approach the twenty-first century! It all depends on how courageously those who evangelize through the media are themselves communicators of divine grace by their lives of heroic loyalty to Jesus Christ.
EVANGELIZATION

Father John A. Hardon, S. J. - Marian Catechist
Spiritual Formation for Evangelization

By Carole Breslin, Marian Catechist Newsletter Fall 1999 and with modifications by Dorie Gruss, M.C.

How to Win Souls
One of our primary responsibilities is the sharing of our Catholic faith in such a way as to win souls for the kingdom of God. How can we convert people? How can we bring people to a deeper appreciation of the treasures of our Faith? How can we share our Faith in the most effective way possible?

We Cannot Without Humility
We can neither convert nor draw people to a closer relationship with our Triune God. True humility recognizes that we are nothing and thus can do nothing. True humility also recognized that our Creator has endowed each of us with gifts, which we are to make full use of in working for the greater glory of His Kingdom.

With Charity
"If you truly want to help the soul of your neighbor, you should approach God first with all your heart. Ask Him simply to fill you with charity, the greatest of all virtues, with it you can accomplish what you desire." It is God's grace, His wisdom that works through us, which converts, enlightens and strengthens others in their Faith.

Christ Disciples
The more open we are to surrendering all of ourselves to the work of Christ crucified, the more we will be able to accomplish. The more we cooperate with His grace, the better disciples we will be for the Lord.

Jesus Our Model Our Teacher
While the Lord walked the earth He taught the apostles how to teach. When asked which is the greatest commandment in the Law, Jesus answered. “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. And the second is like it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” (Mt. 22:37-40)

Self-centered Is Pride
True love of God is not self-centered. Self-centered is another name for pride. The first thing we must do before we even begin to share the faith is to love God. This seems so basic that we often overlook its deeper meaning. We must love God more than we love being right. We must not love winning the argument. What have we won if in winning the argument we have lost the soul? We must not love the glory received for profound insights. If we love the glory
then we have not given glory to God, from Whom the insights came but to ourselves who only related them. If we are self-centered, we are filled with pride. We lack humility. We must learn from Christ who is meek and humble of heart. We must not love the respect, the honor, or the gratitude, for these are the things, which may lead to pride and turning from God.

**Humility**
Respect, honor and glory belong to God alone. We must love God so truly and honestly and completely as to say if I have done well it has come from God. If I have done poorly, it has come from me. We must recognize that we cannot do what our Lord calls us to do without His help. In recognizing our weakness we find our strength in our loving Lord, Jesus Christ. “...thrice I besought the Lord that it might leave me. And He has said to me, ’My grace is sufficient for thee, for strength is made perfect in weakness.’”  
(2 Cor. 12: 8-9)

**Spiritual Formation**
We will be able to teach others, not because of the little we know about the Church, but because of the graces we have merited. That is why spiritual formation, prayer and Catechesis, is so important. On going Catechesis is not an option. Prayer life is not an option. Spiritual formation is essential for the graces to flow to us and to whom we come in contact. We want to influence people so that we may bring them to God's love. We do it for righteousness, not for self-righteousness. An undying love of Christ should be our one and only motivation.

**Love Of Neighbor**
We must love our neighbor by dying to self. We must want for them what Jesus wants for them, to be happy with Him in heaven. We do this by sharing God's love with him. We must forget our personal wants and desires and look deeply into the person with whom we are communicating. To be effective in sharing the faith we must first connect with him. We must look into his eyes, focus on what he is saying. People say much more than the words that come from their mouths. We must be aware of their presence and seek to understand all their wants, desires, fears and anxieties. We must see them as Our Lord sees them. Love them as He loves them.

**Christ-like Love, Charity**
We must love more than those who love us. We must love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and pray for those who persecute and calumniate us. Only with Christ-like love and charity can we convert the sinner, redirect misguided priests and religious. If we walk up to someone, tell him in a loud voice what he is doing wrong and act indignant at what he has done, we have lost him. He will build up a wall of defense to protect himself. First we are to make a statement to affirm the goodness in him, no matter how hard it may be for us to find it in him. Then he will be more open to listen to what we have to say. To present a loving God, we must become loveable.
Be Faithful
Even when we think we have done everything right, we will not always be successful. Perhaps the ones we are teaching are not open to God's will. Mother Teresa has said, "God does not ask that we be successful but that we be faithful." We are to expect miracles if we ask.

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We are to cultivate the art of spiritual conversation. We are forever talking to other people and in their absence what do we do, we talk to ourselves. So what is spiritual conversation? It is conversation with other people indeed. What about the things of God? About things that are sacred about our faith? About our own religious experience? About the things that pertain to our Lord, to our Lady, the saints, the Church, the Holy Eucharist, prayer, acts of piety, stories that elate to what is holy. I believe most people's conversation most of the time is in technical language is profane conversation about the things of this world. I hope you agree. Hours on end, lost in animated conversation, about what? Except about the one Being on whom everything else depends.

Some practical suggestions. There is such a thing as being prepared for conversation. You don't just walk into a conversation. Now of course, we don't come with a book or two under your arm and a pad and notes, let's see here on page seven. There's also such a thing as cultivating the art of mastering a conversation. And the one who masters a conversation is not, believe me, the one that does most of the talking. A judicious question. A short comment. But we are talking about spiritual conversation. This is an art and some people never learn it. Of course, of course, from the depths of the heart as Christ tells us, the mouth speaks. We are going to be only as adapt in spiritual conversation as you are interiorly united with God.

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Religious letter writing can be one of the most effective channels of grace. A single letter which we write can change another person's life. St. Ignatius, he would sometimes rewrite a letter seven times to make sure he was saying exactly what he thought the soul to whom he was writing needed.

Not all people have the same freedom to write letters. Not everyone has the same facility. But everyone who believes in Christ and writes letters should be aware of the power of the written word to bring souls closer to the Savior and literally work miracles of grace in people's lives. It does not really matter how much or how many letters are written and surely it does not matter on how long they are. What is important is that what we write will breathe the spirit of piety. That we write about the things of God. But I'm not used to it. Start getting used to it. And that our correspondence is consciously intended to bring those to whom we write closer to Jesus Christ. Otherwise as St. Ignatius stated, don't write the letter. You're wasting your time and your wasting the time of the person to whom you are writing. One short comment. Make sure that your letter close with a conclusion, like, sincerely yours in Christ; sincerely in our Lord, or simply in our Lady, or in the love of the Sacred Heart, and I close my letter that way also to my Jewish friends, why not?

Christ our Lord told us that, if we profess Him before men on earth He will profess us before His heavenly father. This is both a privilege and a challenge.
Media Response

World Communications Day

Presented by the
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.
Media Apostolate
This committee’s purpose is to respond, typically in writing, to portrayals of the Church in the media. Responses should be presented in a loving tone, guided by *Inter Mirifica*, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and Father Hardon’s talk on *St. Therese of Lisieux*. They should also invite, recruit and train members to defend the faith.

Responses could take the form of letters to the editor and publisher commenting on specific news or features in print, or letters to the sponsors of radio, cinema, television or Internet content.

Letters should seek to convert, not confront, teaching to the good and not the evil. In addition, they need not always be critical. Some could praise *sound* portrayals of Catholics and Catholicism.

Everyone can learn how to write effective letters that get read – and even published. The goal of this committee is to give parishioners the tools they need to respond to something they see, hear or read in the media that might not be in keeping with the teachings of the Church or something that might be misrepresented by media. They might even want to write a letter commending someone on a great article or show. The committee might also consider holding a letter writing “do’s and don’ts” workshop at a later date.

The Letter Writers Committee could have various “form” letters and example letters that Catholics can use to send to media (and their advertisers) they feel air inappropriate or unsuitable material, programs, etc. The committee should have a supply of letters people can send out in response to current “hot topics”. A Letter-Writing Workshop – do’s and don’ts – would be a highly effective way to teach people how to respond to inappropriate media messages. A listing of contact names and addresses for local and national media would be a valuable handout.
Representatives from the Speaker’s Bureau could have information available for parishioners who might have a need for a guest speaker at their local parish, social group, etc. Pre-recorded tapes of earlier presentations may be sold for use at group meetings, etc.

**SUGGESTED DISPLAYS:**

1. Have a sign-up sheet for those who want to attend a session at a Letter-Writing Workshop on how to write letters to the media.

2. For representatives from the Speaker’s Bureau, have a sign-up sheet to collect names of people who want to learn how to defend the faith during appearances on the media.

3. Encourage your audience to learn about the Catholic League and how they themselves can also participate in the defense of the Roman Catholic Faith. The “Catholic League defends the right of Catholics – lay and clergy alike – to participate in American public life without defamation or discrimination.” [http://www.catholicleague.org](http://www.catholicleague.org)

4. Center for Media Literacy (CML) – “Dedicated to promoting and supporting media literacy education as a framework for accessing, analyzing, evaluating and creating media content, CML works to help citizens, especially the young, develop critical thinking and media production skills needed to live fully in the 21st century media culture.” Their *Media & Values* Archives: “Over 350 classic articles from this acclaimed magazine are now online and linked to teaching ideas and resources you can use today.” Visit: [http://www.medialit.org](http://www.medialit.org)

**SUGGESTED HANDOUTS:**

1. Letters that represent effective writing with marginal notes that explain why the letter was written in a particular way.

2. A tip sheet listing the “How To’s” of effective letter writing.

3. A list of contact names and addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for local and national media that can be used by the public to voice their opinion to editors, publishers, program managers and sponsors who support anti-Catholic programs.

4. Learn how to become a guest speaker on television.
ST. THOMAS MORE

Give me the grace, Good Lord;  
to set the world as naught, and to set my mind firmly on You,  
so as not to hang upon the words from men's mouths;  


to gladly be thinking of God, piteously to call for His help,  
and to lean into the comfort of God as I busily labor to love Him;  


to gladly bear my purgatory here;  
to be joyful in tribulations;  
to walk the narrow way that leads to life;  


to have continually in mind the passion that Christ suffered for me,  
and to give Him thanks unceasingly for His benefits.  

Let me count all worldly substance, friends, liberty, life and all,  
as nothing, for the winning of Christ Jesus.  

Amen
My presentation is relatively short, so I would first like to talk about media bias, something that shouldn’t be too shocking to anyone here. Then, I’d like to go over points on good letter writing, nicely put together by the Father Hardon Media Apostolate and Terry Sullivan. Finally, I will “open the floor” to any questions you may have.

Regarding media bias, there is an excellent resource – a book by Dr. & Mrs. John C. Willke. It’s titled, Why Can’t We Love Them Both? In it, I found a couple of interesting items. They first go back to 1981, which seems like a long time ago. But we can assume that what was the case back then in the media is pretty much the same, if not worse, today.

"[A] report was based on ‘hour long interviews with 240 journalists and broadcasters at the most influential media outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, CBS, NBC, ABC, PBS, etc.” Among the findings were that 90% said a woman had the right to choose abortion. Forty-six percent felt adultery was wrong, with only 15% feeling strongly about it, and 76% approved of living with someone of the opposite sex.

"On religion, 50% denied any religious affiliation. Twenty-three percent were raised Jewish, but only 14% were practicing Judaism at the time. Only one in five identified themselves as Protestant, one in eight as Catholic. Overall, however, only 8% went to church or synagogue weekly with 86% attending seldom or never. They were largely male, white, highly educated, with high incomes” (Willke, 329-330).

Fast forward to 1996. "A survey of 139 Washington-based journalists showed that 89% voted for Clinton in ’92, 7% for Bush and 2% for Perot, so no change here. Further, only 2% identified themselves as conservative, while the ‘moderate to liberal’ category claimed 91%” (Willke, 332).

Should we give up on the media? Is it hopeless? "Quite the contrary. We must get acquainted with media people. They will see us as single issue? True, but they must also see us as well-spoken and professional, not irresponsible fire-brands. We must try to educate them. Many media people have gross misconceptions of us and what we stand for" (Willke, 333).

A passage from the Vatican II document, Decree on the Media of Social Communications, also known as Inter Mirifica:

"…The Church recognizes that these media, if properly utilized, can be of great service to mankind, since they greatly contribute to men's entertainment and instruction as well as to the spread and support of the Kingdom of God…Since public opinion exercises the greatest power and authority today in every sphere of life, both private and public, every member of society
must fulfill the demands of justice and charity in this area. As a result, all must strive, through these media as well, to form and spread sound public opinion….

Now I will talk a bit about how I go into writing letters. I was actually observing a few sessions of the \textit{NOW vs. Scheidler} trial in 1998. Of course the original verdict was not in our [pro-lifers] favor. (They were found guilty of "racketeering.") So I felt prompted to fire off a couple of letters on that subject. I sent one to the \textit{Chicago Sun-Times}, one to the \textit{Chicago Tribune} and one to the \textit{Daily Herald} newspaper. At least two of those letters were published….

Use the \textit{Catechism of the Catholic Church} as your inspiration – it’s an excellent guide. It’s not, however, a good idea to quote directly from it, especially if you are writing to secular newspapers. Catholic newspapers are another matter, but for secular newspapers, it’s better to paraphrase.

Letters, of course, do get edited….

Tips for letter-writing: Write to convert, not necessarily confront. Write charitably. Avoid a slap back approach. You can write strongly and still be charitable. A good phrase to use is, "It would appear that…." Submit letters promptly. It's best, I would say, to submit your letters within 24 hours. A general rule: the sooner the better. I think it’s best to fax or email. "Snail" mail is good if you are writing to a particular editor, or if you don't intend the letter to be for publication.

Make the chief points first. Letters are typically edited from the bottom up. Which is another reason why shortness and brevity is preferable - and it's less likely that it will be mangled by editors. Also, it’s helpful to write in response to a particular story or column in a newspaper. Now, often times, I will submit my letter to several publications, although a few of the major newspapers want "exclusive-only" letters. Avoid criticizing the outlet itself for something they published or broadcast.

In general keep in mind the basic elements of persuasion: to teach, to delight, and to move people.

Plant the seed, and let God do the rest.

\textit{Copyright 2004 Matt C. Abbott}
Words have tremendous power. So does technology. The two combined can be formidable, and we live in an age when an ordinary person can submit an impactful three-paragraph opinion piece by e-mail to a major newspaper and have it read the next morning by millions of human beings.

This manual offers ideas for effective writing on issues of interest to Catholics. Since the Church represents all that is good and true, writers now have a great opportunity: they can share its goodness readily with a click of the “send” key.

Read on, and write!
Let your Catholic voice be heard!

How? By writing effective letters to media outlets – letters that get published and therefore reach the eyes of many readers. YOU can bring Catholic viewpoints to the public forum and help shape public opinion. YOU can help fight harmful television content by writing letters to TV producers that get attention. YOU can help turn the power of media to the good.

Consider the following, lifted from the *Vatican II Decree on the Media of Social Communications*, also known as *Inter Mirifica*:

The Church recognizes that these media [the press, movies, radio, television and the like], if properly utilized, can be of great service to mankind, since they greatly contribute to men's entertainment and instruction as well as to the spread and support of the Kingdom of God...

Since public opinion exercises the greatest power and authority today in every sphere of life, both private and public, every member of society must fulfill the demands of justice and charity in this area. As a result, all must strive, through these media as well, to form and spread sound public opinion.

Following are specific ways in which you can craft effective letters and increase the chance of their publication!
Tips on Writing Effective "Letters to the Editor"
in response to news coverage on the Catholic Church

– Use the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as your inspiration. Use it also as a source of solid information so you're accurate when representing Church teaching. When writing for a secular outlet, however, actually quoting the *Catechism* probably won't be effective. Paraphrase the ideas instead.

– Write to convert, not confront. In other words, write charitably. Avoid a "slap-back" approach. You can write strongly and still be charitable. A good phrase to use is "It would appear that." Example: "It would appear that XYZ newspaper misrepresented the Catholic viewpoint in its January 2 story on euthanasia..."

– Freshness is important in the news business. Submit letters *promptly*, more or less depending on the medium. For daily newspapers, e-mail or fax your response the same day or early the next to increase its chance of publication. It's a good idea to visit the outlet's website to learn their submission guidelines (some national papers, for example, require exclusivity).

– Brief is usually best.

– Generally, make chief points first. Letters are typically edited from the bottom up (another reason why brevity is preferable – your letter is more likely to be left intact).

– It's helpful to write in response to a specific item in that outlet, and refer to it. Pertinence to that outlet's readership heightens your chance of publication.

– Remember to write letters commending positive coverage on occasion – not just letters criticizing the negative.

– Avoid criticizing the outlet itself for something it published or broadcast. Doing so might make you feel good, but may not be the most effective way to make your point. It also may prejudice the publication against you for future submissions. A better way to express your feelings: call the circulation department, cancel your subscription if you have one, and tell them why.

– In general, keep in mind the basic elements of persuasion: to *teach*, to *delight*, and to *move* people.
When writing letters in response to offensive content on television or radio: Write not only to the station manager but to the **program sponsor**. For the latter, direct your letter to the president of the company, not to customer relations or PR. (Find an Internet-savvy friend to help you find the company address and president's name.)

Such letters get attention. A single letter is believed to represent the opinions of many in the viewing audience who didn't bother to write.

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Copyright 2005 Terry Sullivan
Tips on Writing Effective "Letters to the Editor" in response to news items on the Catholic Church

- Use the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as your inspiration.
- Write to convert, not confront. In other words, write charitably. Avoid a "slap-back" approach.
- Identify yourself as a Catholic.
- Submit letters promptly, more or less depending on the medium. For daily newspapers, e-mail or fax your response the same day or early the next to increase its chance of publication.
- Brief is usually best.
- Generally, make chief points first. Letters are typically cut from the bottom.
- Remember to write letters commending positive coverage on occasion—not just letters criticizing the negative.

When writing letters in response to offensive content on television or radio: Write not only to the station manager but to the program sponsor. For the latter, direct your letter to the president of the company, not to customer relations or PR. (Find an Internet-savvy friend to help you find the company address and president’s name.)

Such letters get attention. A single letter is believed to represent the opinions of many in the viewing audience who didn't bother to write.
Forget 'sexperts'

CHICAGO—Kudos to Linda Chavez for her recent commentary "Parents play an important role in discouraging teen sex" (Op-Ed, May 6).

It seems we are finally starting to realize that the best sex education is provided by the good example of parents, not the "value-free" propaganda pumped out by the "sexperts" at Planned Parenthood and the like.

The sexperts like to say that promoting the use of contraceptives and abortifacients will help to reduce teen pregnancies and thus reduce the number of abortions. These are also the same people who think the RU-486 is the next "miracle" drug! The only thing classroom sex education and contraceptives contribute to is more fornication and subsequently, more abortions!

Matt Abbott

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Message of hope

CHICAGO—In a world engulfed by spiritual darkness and moral chaos, John Paul II has certainly been a beacon of light and hope.

During the past two decades, this pope has had a profound impact on our society in many ways: He is largely responsible for the decline of communism and the unmasking of its shallow, yet dangerous philosophy; he has brought people of all faiths closer to God and to each other by way of authentic ecumenism; and he has fought valiantly to defeat the present "culture of death" by proclaiming the gospel of life.

Even in the face of his critics and detractors, those on the left accusing him of being authoritarian and oppressive, and those on the right calling him a heretic and false prophet, John Paul II has stood firm in the truth.

Matt C. Abbott
A Landmark Vote on Abortion

To the Editor:

I am heartened by what I see as two victories for the right-to-life movement: Gov. Jeb Bush's executive order to reinsert the feeding tube of Terri Schiavo ("Governor of Florida Orders Woman Fed in Right-to-Die Case," front page, Oct. 22); and the Senate's vote to ban the procedure known as "partial birth" abortion (front page, Oct. 22).

The first victory, I would submit, is greater than the second, as Mrs. Schiavo's life appears to have been saved by the order. But the second victory, while largely a symbolic one that could ultimately fail in court, is nonetheless not insignificant, as it keeps the controversial abortion issue in the news.

MATT C. ABBOTT
Chicago, Oct. 22, 2003

Displays optimism, not pessimism.
Bush is right on clone ban

It is shocking that rational people seriously would consider using human life in medical research. All people everywhere should be appalled by these "Frankenstein" experiments using human beings.

There is no benefit that can rationalize or justify the sacrificing of human life. President Bush is right in committing to a total ban on all human cloning.

Michael W. Jones
Lumberton, Texas

There's room for debate

Aren't there two parts to the discussion of stem-cell research?

One is cloning human embryos and the other is using frozen embryos that are volunteered by donors and that would eventually be destroyed.

It seems like most people assume that if one wants to ban human cloning then one must also eliminate both of the above.

I think all three are separate issues.

Brad Rolfe
St. Louis, Mo.

Cloning is 'culture of death'

President Bush should be commended for calling for a ban on the intrinsic evil of human cloning ("Bush: No human cloning," News, Thursday).

Proponents of cloning say they support it only for "therapeutic" reasons, meaning that stem cells can be harvested from embryos, thus giving researchers the possibility to develop a cure for certain diseases.

But they fail to realize the fundamental moral principle, rooted in the natural and divine law, that one cannot commit an evil so that good might come from it.

In this case, the evil is the cloning itself and the subsequent harvesting of the stem cells, which causes the death of the living human embryo. The good, of course, is the intention of developing a cure for fatal diseases.

Sadly, human cloning is just one of a multitude of wrongs that some people consider to be morally neutral or even good. And in order to fully protect the common good, our leaders in government must adhere to the moral law by outlawing the evils of abortion, contraception, euthanasia, assisted-suicide, pornography, embryonic stem cell research, unnatural sexual activity, and in-vitro fertilization.

Otherwise, the culture of death will continue to plague our world.

Matt C. Abbott
Pro-Life Action League
Chicago, Ill.
Letter to the Editor, The Denver Post, August 12, 2003

(As a former Colorado resident and lover of this uniquely blessed land...) Please allow me to comment on the 8/1/03 Denver Post article, “Colo. leaders say church out of bounds.” May God forgive Gov. Owens (“...the Vatican should not be attempting to direct politicians on how to vote on any issue.”), a nominal Catholic, for denying his faith and his God, Our Lord Jesus Christ, for the sake of political popularity. At issue was legal recognition of homosexual “marriages”. As only one of countless fellow Catholics who have lost jobs and friends as a result of trying to live a life demanded by Our Lord in the hope of meriting eternal salvation, it is astounding to witness media display of one who has been voted into high governmental position by his intelligence, yet, does not understand or openly denies that receiving Our Lord’s Most Precious Body and Blood in Holy Communion at Holy Mass presupposes profound spiritual unity with Christ’s Body, the Church, led by His Vicar on earth. In charity and for the sake of their salvation, I pray for Our Lord to open the minds of Gov. Owens and other governmental leaders to understand that the Holy Father speaks with Christ’s authority (Mat 16:18-19; Jn 21:15-17) on moral issues, not just to politicians, but to all of mankind. “Catholic” politicians who recognize “the Vatican” as an obtrusive agency rather than a resource to both their salvation and that of the people they are responsible to the same God for are a contradiction to their secular recognition as “public servants”.

In His love,

Charitable tone

Catholic view of womanhood applied in a secular setting

Letters to the Editor

... kids most important

- The so-called glass ceiling exists for the simple reason that women bear children, and in so doing, they are quite naturally diverted from thinking only of career and work.

This state of affairs is perfectly natural, not to mention unchangeable. What is not natural is to insist that, as a norm, women should pursue executive-level jobs that will keep them from the most important work they could ever do on this earth: caring for their own children.

(Ms.) Terry Sullivan
Chicago
March 1, 2004

Carlos Ghosn, Chief Executive Officer
Nissan North America
P.O. Box 191
Gardena, CA 90248

Dear Mr. Ghosn:

I write with regard to Nissan’s sponsorship of the popular sitcom *Friends*.

The show’s February 26 episode contained three jocular references to casual, extramarital sex, something that is characteristic of the program in general.

Casual sex erodes the dignity of the human person and is a recipe for unhappiness. As a practicing Catholic, I am deeply concerned that Nissan would sponsor a program that does harm to so many in this way. That the message “casual sex is okay and even normal” is conveyed through attractive young actors and in a humorous vein makes it all the more powerful and harmful.

Thankfully, *Friends* will end soon. However, I would urge Nissan to weigh future sponsorships more carefully to ensure that the content is enriching, rather than degrading, to human beings.

Thank you!

Sincerely yours,

Terry Sullivan
Oak Park, IL
Example letter you can use when writing to your government officials

The Honorable______
Which ever Legislature
Any State, USA

Most Honorable__________.

As this nation seeks to deal with the grief of terrorism, we still yet have our own citizens that see opportunity for financial gain at the expense of the sorrow of our own fellow citizens. This will continue to happen if this government and all governments in this great nation do not take reasonable steps to amend the loopholes in our nation's open record's laws.

We have media groups, private citizens, and internet sites that abuse and misuse these open record's laws to gain access to autopsy photos and medical examiner's reports on victims of tragic and accidental death and homicide. They place no thought to the pain they inflict on family members and friends mourning of the loss of a loved one by these inhumane intrusions into the sorrow of mortal human beings. It is my opinion that they do these despicable things because of the potential to profit financially from these tragic deaths and their view is quite different and equally defenseless if you simply examine the evidence of their claims.

The most repugnant defense for this to date, is that it is a right of Free Speech and Free Press and that it is protected by The United States Constitution as such. Next is the contention that posting autopsy photos on the internet or in a sleazy news publication, is not only a protected right under the Constitution, but that it is also a necessary balance against government conspiracy and malfeasance by the coroners and medical examiners of this nation.

Then you couple this open record's access with the knowledge that not only are autopsy photos being displayed on the internet as a carnival attraction, but that people have actually placed autopsy reports on the internet for auction to the highest bidder. I shall allow you to conclude whether this is a guaranteed protection endowed by The United States Constitution to the medias and citizens of this nation.

NATIONAL COALITION ACTING For AUTOPSY PRIVACY (www.ncaap.com) is placing before this government our affirmed belief that such practices are intolerable, irresponsible, and lacking of any measure of reasoned humanity to those in mourning. We are not just a band of racing enthusiasts and we present to this government a legitimate First Amendment petition for an end to a despicable grievance against our fellow citizens.

We are asking not for censorship of the media or for the government to act in any measure that takes away any Constitutional Freedom from any citizen of this nation. We simply believe that all materials relating to any autopsy have no point or purpose in the hands and eyes of the general public.

These painful images and documents have a proper necessary function within the criminal and civil justice systems of this nation and in the field of medical sciences. We are asking the governments of America to amend open record's laws to provide for these reasonable safeguards against the exploitation of the deceased for means that serve no possible service to mankind.

It was the death of, NASCAR Racing legend, Dale Earnhardt that allowed for us to become so mortified and aware of these deplorable injustices and nothing else should be construed by anyone because of the name of this outstanding association of concerned American Citizens.

Yours truly, Person's Name http://www.ncaap.com/exampleletter.html

11/24/2006
Invite Eternal Life Publications, an approved Catholic vendor, to sell books and other materials appropriate to the World Communication Day message.

Provided courtesy of Eternal Life (www.lifeeternal.org)

This table should offer numerous books related to:

- Apologetics
- Catechesis
- Family-oriented themes, i.e.
  - Cana/Marriage
  - Parenting/Single Parenting
  - Home Schooling
- Books on the current World Communications theme.
- Catholic Films/DVD’s
- Catholic Music/CD’s

A local Catholic bookstore may be invited to put current World Communications Day theme items on this table also.
Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

Most glorious Prince of the Heavenly armies, Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in our battle against principalities and powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, against the spirit of wickedness in the high places. Come to the assistance of men whom God has created to His likeness and whom He has redeemed at a great price from the tyranny of the devil. The Holy Church venerates thee as her guardian and protector; to thee the Lord has entrusted the souls of the redeemed to be led into Heaven. Pray therefore the God of Peace to crush Satan beneath our feet, that he may no longer retain men captive and do injury to the Church. Offer our prayers to the most High, that without delay they may draw His mercy down upon us. Take hold of the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, bind him, and cast him into the bottomless pit so that he should no more seduce the nations. Amen.
Spiritual Formation

World Communications Day

Presented by the
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.,
Media Apostolate
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

Marian Catechists

In order to teach the faith, one must know the faith. This committee should present guidelines on Catholic faith home study courses and have the Catechism of the Catholic Church audiotape study program series and other educational home study materials available for purchase. They may also have samples on display with order forms from the various sources for these materials. Committee members should have a background in catechesis – such as the instructors of religious education or a deacon. The pastor might even be able to help with guidelines if there is no qualified person available.

SUGGESTED HANDOUTS:

- Promotional flyers from publishers of Catholic self-study materials such as Eternal Life Publications.
- Sample copies of key books such as the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Modern Catholic Dictionary by Father John A. Hardon, S.J.
- Marian Catechist materials developed by Fr. John Hardon, S.J., his Basic, Advanced and Masters Home Study Courses. Have sign-up sheets for those who are interested in taking one of the courses. Have expert advisors who have completed the courses on site to answer questions and recruit candidates. Get this material from Eternal Life Publications:

  Provided courtesy of Eternal Life (www.lifeeternal.org)

- Have current Eternal Life Catalogs available
• Marian Catechists Manuals from Eternal Life Publications
  - Basic Course
  - Advanced Course
  - Masters Course

• Offer a multitude of tapes, books and materials from Eternal Life Publications, perhaps some good Saints’ Lives:
  - Modern Saints, Vol. I, II
  - Story of a Soul
  - Diary of Saint Faustina Kowalska

• The Real Presence Association has 600 articles written by Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Go to: www.therealpresence.org/archives/archives.htm.
O sweet and adorable Heart of Jesus, accept this holocaust which we offer; inflame it with Your divine love, that it may ascend before You in an odor of sweetness; and that, united with Your infinite merits, it may bring down upon us, upon Your holy Church, upon our Holy Father, our much afflicted pontiff, His Holiness Pope John Paul II, and upon all members of our organization the abundance of Your blessing, the heavenly showers of Your graces, the rich treasures which You have promised to those who would honor You. Throw around us, Your servants, the shield of Your protection, guard us against the malice of the wicked, who hate Your Church because it is Yours and persecute us because we love Your holy name and defend Your honor. Let us find in You our refuge, our consolation, our hope. Be You our support in life, our confidence in death, our eternal enjoyment in heaven. Amen.

Marian Catechist Prayer – Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.
The Writing Apostolate of the Marian Catechists

Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

When the Marian Catechists first began with the encouragement of the Holy See, their foreseen role was to strengthen the faith of believing Catholics and bring the true faith to those who are either not Catholics or even Christians. In the intervening years, both the number of Marian Catechists and their apostolic opportunities have increased beyond all expectations.

In the providence of God, I believe this is a good time to assess, not so much our apostolic commitment, as how this commitment is to be put into practice. The present reflections will concentrate on what I consider the single most basic form of apostolic endeavor in which the Marian Catechists are to engage in the years to come. We shall divide these reflections into three parts: Writing and the Spiritual Life, The Writing Apostolate in the Providence of God, and Marian Catechists as Apostles of Writing.

Writing and the Spiritual Life

Few people realize the value of writing. It was St. Augustine who confessed, as he said, that he was "one of those who write because they have made some progress and who, by means of writing, make further progress" in the spiritual life (Letter 143).

The proverbs of all nations praise the value of writing:

- "Nature's chief masterpiece is writing well."
- "Look into your heart and write."

Except for the inspiration to write, we should not have the Sacred Scriptures. What is the Bible, except the inspired word of God in written form?

My purpose here is to look briefly at some of the reasons why writing is such an asset of the spiritual life. To be convinced of the worth of writing, daily – if only a few words – is to have made a giant stride on the road to sanctity.

**Discipline for the Mind.** Left to themselves, our thoughts tend to roam about. Our minds are not naturally under control. They tend to run in all directions at once and are not spontaneously under our command.

That is why writing is so important. It provides a pathway for the mind. It gives direction to our thinking. It helps us to master our faculty of thought.

**Intellectual Humility.** Cardinal Newman explained why more people do not write. The reason, he said, is that writing demands humility.

When I read what I have written, I must look at myself as I really am. I must see the vagueness of my thinking, the inconsistency of my logic, the triviality of my life and the experience is humiliating.
The pathway to humility is humiliation, and the deepest humiliation is being humiliated in my own eyes. Writing is a proven way of lowering myself in my own estimation by looking at my real self as reflected in the thoughts I have set down on paper.

**Record of Graces Received.** One reason why some of the great saints of history have written much is that they wished to keep a record of the graces they had received from God in mental prayer.

On the one hand, writing helps us to keep humble by giving us visible proof of our own weakness and folly. But writing can also be a tribute to God's wisdom and a record of His graces. We honor Him when we set down in writing what ideas or inspirations He gives us during the day, especially while we are quietly meditating in His presence.

**Cultivating the Memory.** We remember what we want to remember. By writing down our thoughts and spiritual experiences, we make a strong act of the will to remember what we have written.

This is one reason why making even a brief notation, say, of a quotation from one of the saints helps to fix into our minds what we wrote down.

It is a good idea to begin collecting choice sayings from the masters of the spiritual life, as a powerful aid for deepening our own spiritual resources.

Whatever is memorized, becomes part of the treasury of our mind. Our memorized thoughts contribute to everything we think, say or do for the rest of our lives.

**Moral Inventory.** St. Ignatius stressed the importance of a daily review of our conduct, put in some written form. This serves many purposes:

- It shows how serious we are about overcoming our failures.
- It shows how honest we are about growing in the virtues we need.
- It gives us the opportunity of looking back over the progress – if any – we have made in our imitation of Christ.
- It makes us conscious, during the day, of what we plan to put down in some written form at the end of the day.

**The Art of Speaking.** We are told by St. James that, "every kind of beast and bird, and of serpents and the rest is tamed by mankind; but the tongue no man can tame – restless evil and full of deadly poison" (James 3:7-8).

The apostle does not mean we cannot tame the tongue. What he means is that we cannot tame it ourselves. We need the constant help of God. And God will give us the grace to tame this wild creature if we do our part. A most valuable part is to write down our thoughts while saying a prayer before we start writing, as we write, and after we have written – to obtain the divine light we need to see what God wants us to say and the divine help to say it.

People who do this will go a long way to using their tongues as God wants us to. The effort and grace required to write down our thoughts are a major contribution to mastering our speech.
Too often we speak without first thinking. But we cannot write without thinking. The practice of writing, therefore, will develop the art of speaking according to God's will. The reward? "If anyone does not offend in word," we are assured, "he is a perfect man" (James 3:2).

The Charity of Sharing Our Souls. Writing is a proved trainer of the tongue, to prevent us from failing in charity through speech.

But there is more to the practice of charity than merely avoiding failures against the virtue. Charity is, above all, sharing with another what I have, in order to enrich the person whom I love.

What is our dearest possession? It is the gifts of the spirit that the Holy Spirit has generously given to us. If I am to share these gifts of my soul with others, I must do several things:

- Acquire as much grace as I can by reading, prayer and self-denial.

. From my record, I share – as occasion arises – with others what the goodness of the Lord has shared with me.

It would be a good idea if we started keeping a written record of past experiences, interesting episodes, uplifting sentiments, whether our own or those received from others.

When God became man, He taught the people mainly through short stories – we call them parables. He wants us to follow His example. In practice, this means we should make a written memo of the parables in our own life, to share them with others and thus bring everyone we talk to closer to the Heart of Christ.

The Writing Apostolate in the Providence of God

We may say that the writing apostolate began with the discovery of alphabetical writing. It was about 2000 B.C. that phonetic writing was discovered. This meant that for the first time in history, human beings could communicate their thoughts and desires by means of single sounds expressed in a few easily remembered written forms. No expert in Sinology knows all the eighty thousand Chinese symbols, and even the ten thousand normally used by Chinese scholars are beyond the capacity of most people to learn. How much easier to use only twenty or thirty signs.

In a relatively short time, the alphabet passed from one language to another, from the Phoenicians and Hebrews to the farthest regions of Eastern and Northern Europe. It can be said that the alphabet was discovered just in time for God's revealed truth to be put down in writing. Another name for this written revelation is the Bible.

All the effects of literacy were accentuated with the discovery of printing. If 1456 is accepted as the date of his great invention, when he issued the Mazarin Bible, this would give an even eighty years to the publication of John Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion. During that period, a new form of Christianity came on the scene, whose principles were strongly shaped by the rise of a print civilization. As we all know, Protestants consider all of God's revealed truth to be contained in the Bible. This unthinkable and devastating principle would never have penetrated Christianity until the discovery of print. But it gives us some idea of how powerful the written word can be in shaping, or shall I say reshaping, the minds of millions.

When St. Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus, he trained his followers to write, write extensively, write daily, write through correspondence, write for publication. That is why the bibliography of the published writings by Jesuits contains literally thousands of books covering every aspect of the teaching apostolate.

As a spiritual son of St. Ignatius, it is my duty to not only encourage you to write. Dare I say it, I must demand of all of you as Marian Catechists to write.
Marian Catechists as Apostles of Writing

At this early stage of the writing apostolate by the Marian Catechists, we can only spell out the larger picture of what this means. Basically, it means that to be a Marian Catechist, one must cultivate the art of writing to bring Christ to others. There is no limit to the forms that this can take. The following is a basic overview of the ways in which this apostolate can be exercised.

Writing Letters to People. Since the dawn of writing, letters have been the normal way for literate persons to exchange their deepest sentiments. A Marian Catechist should be a regular letter writer. I would say at least one letter a day. The letter need not be long, but should be written from the heart. It should contain at least a sentence or two touching on the faith. For example, a letter of condolence may say, "As believing Christians, we are confident that we shall be reunited in heaven with those whom we have loved here on earth. And we shall not be separated from our loved ones for all eternity."

Never close a letter with just some prosaic phrase like, "Sincerely yours." At least say, "Very sincerely yours in Christ," or "Cordially yours in our Lord," or "With my prayers."

The literature of all nations is filled with beautiful passages about how much people appreciate receiving letters. Susan Emory, in the nineteenth century, wrote an essay entitled, An Old Woman's Answer to a Letter from Her Girlhood. She says:

I listen and my hand thy letter presses;
I, time-worn woman, touch it with caresses,
I kiss the faded ink of its addresses.

Over the years of my priesthood, how many people have told me they still keep letters that I had written them thirty or more years ago.

The writing apostolate of the Marian Catechists must include the writing of letters, not only to those who have written to us, but especially to those from whom we have never received a letter, and who may never correspond with us in return.

Letters to Editors. Most of us do enough reading of newspapers and magazines to know that letters to the editor are, I would say, an essential part of every periodical.

Many, if not most, of these letters to the editor are critical. Something published in a previous issue is displeasing to a reader. So what does the reader do? Writes a letter to the editor complaining about what had appeared in the newspaper or magazine. Or again, something was said in print that is not clear, or confusing. This time the letter to the editor asks for an explanation.

But as I know from experience, the letters which editors most appreciate are those in which the readers are happy with something that had been printed. Or they are pleased with the spirit in which something was published. Then they inform the editor by complimenting the writer and expressing their satisfaction with what had appeared in print.

Thus, in a recent issue of The Catholic Faith magazine, a reader wrote to the editor, "I have been a great proponent of The Catholic Faith since it was first available. As a DRE at Holy Apostles Church in South Meriden, Connecticut, I insist all my catechists read every issue." Needless to say, the editor was very happy to receive this short letter.
Another monthly newspaper, *Adoremus Bulletin*, has a letter to the editor, entitled "What's the Point?." It reads, 'Regarding 'An Architecture to Honor the Church's Vision'; if the architecture portrayed are examples of what is to come, I don't like it, or am I missing the point here? In your opinion, very simply, are you for or against this new architecture of St. Basil's, University of St. Thomas, Houston? Can you please clarify this for me?"

The editor's response is five paragraphs long and brings out some very important points which the readers would never have known except for the question raised by a letter to the editor.

**Articles for Periodicals.** The two basic forms of periodical writing are what we commonly call newspapers and magazines.

Catholic newspapers will generally welcome contributed stories or newsworthy facts which are unsolicited but voluntarily sent in to the editor. Of course, you must know what I call the philosophy of the newspaper. Assuming this, a very valuable form of apostolic writing is to provide these papers with news items that are not only announcements of some future meeting or convention. The secret is to describe, concisely and informatively, about some event or experience that would be interesting to the readers.

On another level, with few exceptions, Catholic magazines welcome articles that are well-written, authentically Catholic, and consistent with the editorial policy of the publication. So important is this form of apostolic writing that I dare say it is almost the lifeblood of periodical literature.

At this point, I wish to share with the Marian Catechists one of the plans for the immediate future. Those who either have already had the experience of writing for Catholic magazines, or those who would like to engage in this apostolate, are hereby requested to submit their names and at least a short description of the kind of periodical writing they would be interested in pursuing.

Having over the years organized Catholic writers' guilds, both for my own Jesuit confreres and for the Catholic laity, I hereby invite Marian Catechists to form a similar writers' guild as an essential part of our apostolate.

**Manuscripts for Books.** The modern world is literally flooded with thousands of volumes that are published every year in our country alone. Most of these books are not only not Catholic, but many are brazenly unchristian and even openly pagan.

In contrast, there are relatively few authentically Catholic books published in our day. It is almost as though professed Catholics were either afraid to express their convictions or, as the expression goes, there is no market for their writings. On the first level, we dare not keep silence about Incarnate Truth for fear of being criticized, or ostracized or, to coin a word, martyred. Having done my share of publishing books on the Catholic faith, one of my fondest hopes for the Marian Catechists is that, with God's grace, they will publish volumes in explanation and defense of their faith in Jesus Christ.

There is a large market, widely open, for sound, Catholic books. They can be small paperbacks of a hundred or less pages. They can be larger volumes. One thing I want to make clear. Our nation is literally starving for the truth that we, faithful followers of Christ, have received from Him to share with others. Something like a dozen large Catholic publishers in the United States went out of existence during the revolution in the sixties and seventies. Without going into the reasons for this misfortune, we must do everything in our power to reopen the market for soundly Catholic books that are so deeply needed in the Western world today. But there will be no such books unless there are zealous writers who are willing to spend the hours, and I mean sleepless hours, in writing the manuscripts for books to nourish our dechristianized society with God's revealed truth.
As was said before, I welcome those Catechists who believe they have the grace to do so, to let me know if they are willing to write manuscripts for books. These can be individual manuscripts written by a single person, or what I call collective manuscripts, where ten or so authors each contributes a chapter on one master theme.

Conclusion

This is only the prelude to what I consider one of the main forms of the Marian Catechists' apostolate. There are other forms of apostolic communication. There is the spoken word, which is indispensable. There are the mass media of communication.

It is worth quoting the first paragraph of the Second Vatican Council's decree on the means of social communication, Inter Mirifica. First issued in 1963, it has been the most neglected of the sixteen documents issued by the council. One reason for this widespread neglect is that its underlying thesis is the duty we have to use these modem media for the extension of Christ's kingdom on earth. The first paragraph reads:

Man's genius has with God's help produced marvelous technical inventions from creation, especially in our times. The Church, our mother, is particularly interested in those which directly touch man's spirit and which have opened up new avenues of easy communication of all kinds of news, of ideas and orientations. Chief among them are those means of communication which of their nature can reach and influence not merely single individuals but the very masses and even the whole of human society. These are the press, the cinema, radio, television and others of a like nature. These can rightly be called "the means of social communication."

You will notice that the first form of media identified by the council is the press. In the Latin original, the word is prelum, which means every form of the printed word. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of identifying the apostolate of published writing as the principal medium of apostolic communication in the modern world.

As time goes on, we shall elaborate on other means of social communication in the Marian Catechist apostolate. For the present, we concentrate on writing. It was writing that the Holy Spirit inspired the authors of the New Testament Scriptures to give the world the Good News proclaimed by the angels on Christmas morning.

John A. Hardon, S.J.
Feast of the Sacred Heart,
Writers Guild

World Communications Day

Presented by the Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., Media Apostolate
The purpose of this exhibit is to encourage serious writing. The Writers Guild can promote and sell works from suggested Catholic writers. They can solicit Catholic publishers to bring their books and magazines for exhibit and sale. A variety of books and printed materials should be available for adults, for children and for family use. Table Exhibit Coordinators might even make a presentation or have information on “pro-active” topics, such as a listing of local resources for printed materials.

This committee might try to get a children’s author to participate in WCD Media Sunday by being the “story-teller” and selling autographed books. ALSO, any parishioners who themselves are authors should be able to display and sell their books.

Not every parish will have a published author sitting in the pews, but there may be a teacher, a librarian or an avid reader who knows about good Catholic books and authors. If there is someone who has been published, the Table Exhibit Coordinators should ask him or her to participate. They might even want to invite a Catholic publisher to display and sell their books. Table Exhibit Coordinators should be available to explain the importance of supporting good Catholic writers, the importance of reading quality materials, and the importance of getting children to read about their faith at an early age. The person in charge of this table should offer advice and encouragement to anyone interested in writing a Catholic book and getting it published.

**SUGGESTED HANDOUTS:**

- Listing of good Catholic writers and their works – from the Early Fathers of the Church to contemporary Catholic authors.
- Catalogs or flyers from Catholic publishers
- A list of Internet sites that sell orthodox Catholic books.
FATHER JOHN A. HARDON, S.J. MEDIA APOSTOLATE
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

LETTER WRITING WORKSHOP

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**FATHER JOHN A. HARDON, S.J. MEDIA APOSTOLATE**  
**WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY**  
**SPEAKERS WORKSHOP**  

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FATHER JOHN A. HARDON, S.J. MEDIA APOSTOLATE
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

WRITERS WORKSHOP

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Prayer of Saint Francis de Sales

O love eternal,
my soul needs and chooses you eternally!
Ah, come Holy Spirit,
and inflame our hearts with your love!
To love – or to die!
To die – and to love!
To die to all other love
in order to live in Jesus’ love,
so that we may not die eternally.
But that we may live in your eternal love,
O Savior of our souls
we eternally sing,
“Live, Jesus!
Jesus, I love!
Live, Jesus, whom I love!
Jesus, I love,
Jesus who lives and reigns
forever and ever.
Amen.
PRINT MEDIA SUGGESTIONS

Count the hours spent in writing. Ask yourself, how much writing have I done? Write for yourself. Write to defend the faith. Write your experiences. Write what you want to remember. So much of the writing is done by people who lack good sense – get writing. We are to write and share the faith we possess. We are all naturally lazy. It takes work to write. God made us rational creatures with certain experiences no one else has.

When you use the print media to teach, promote and defend the Catholic faith may we suggest that:

- Your statements are based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.
- Make known the position you are taking is a Catholic position.
- In your own words state the Church's teaching.
- With disagreement reply with a kind statement but state the truth.
- Your aim is conversion not confrontation.
- Make your position loveable.
- "Proclaim the good news of salvation to the whole world."
- Use Father Hardon's article, “Writing and the Spiritual Life” as a guide.

A DIFFICULT CASE FOR THE TRUTH

- We must prepare as a lawyer would for an important case.
- Think of all the angles, the objections and so on.
- Know your material, your client, his background and motives.
- Do your research
- You cannot use hearsay.
- It is not enough to tell someone they have to do it, or it is right because, "so and so said so." That is sloth.
- Research the writings of the Fathers of the Church, of the Saints, of Popes and the Councils of the Church. Be able to quote these easily and rationally.
I’d like to start with a prayer. In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary. . . . Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us. In the Name of the Father . . . .

I brought three manuscripts with me on which I could speak. “How to be an Authentic Catholic”; “The Holy Eucharist, the Center of the Pro-life Movement”; and “Writing and the Spiritual Life.” I decided to speak on the last topic, “Writing and the Spiritual Life.”

I’m afraid very few people understand the value of writing. It was St. Augustine who confessed that, and I am quoting, “it was one of those who write because they have made some progress, and by means of writing, make further progress; make further progress in the spiritual life” (St. Augustine, letter 143).

We are addressing ourselves to a strange subject: “Writing and the Spiritual Life”. The proverbs of all nations raise the value of writing. One proverb: “Nature’s chief masterpiece is writing well”; again, “Look into your heart and write.” To insure that the revealed word of God would be written, God invented the alphabet. Except for the inspiration to write, we would not have the Sacred Scriptures. What is the Bible except the inspired word of God but in written form? In our first week in the Jesuit novitiate, we are told, “part of your spirituality is to write.” St. Ignatius carried with him in his travels only his Divine Office, Imitation of Christ, and his log book, (his diary). My purpose here is to look annually briefly; I asked how long to speak, I suggested 45 minutes. And then, if you wouldn’t mind, writing out your questions, the way we taught Jesuits for 25 years, [and] your objections. I would be happy to cope with whatever you write. My purpose is basically to help you see why writing is such a blessed asset of the spiritual life. To be convinced of the value of writing, if only a few words every day, is to have made a giant stride on the road to sanctity.

My talk here this afternoon can be summarized in one word. Imperative mood: WRITE! In teaching my young Jesuits in their first year of theology, one of the scholastics, as we would call them, [who was] very bright and could write well, I told him, “John, you should write, here’s the facts.” I kept after him all year long. He would not write for publication. I kept after him for four years. Recently a priest visited me in my office in Detroit and after, in my office for maybe an half an hour, he left three paperbacks on my desk by mistake. They’re all by my former Jesuit student. Turned over one of the books. It said there now are over nine million books, copies of writings by Fr. John Powell in print. I want to begin each section [of my talk] with a title. And the answer will be, the observation I wish to share with you. The question is: “Why write?”.

we have in life is to master our minds, to control our thoughts. Writing disciplines the mind. Left to themselves our thoughts--what a saver!--tend to roam about. Our minds are not naturally under control. All this needs to be said. We all have a fallen human nature, thanks. What does that mean? We have a fallen human mind. Our minds tend to run in all directions at once. And what a safe statement “Our minds are not spontaneously under our command.” I don’t see that there’s [any] sanctity, there’s not even salvation, unless we have learned to control our minds. That is why writing is so important. It provides a pathway for the mind. Writing gives direction to our thinking. [It] enables us to master the most difficult part of our nature to control our faculty of thoughts.

Writing controls and enables us to master our thinking. With our thoughts in control, as we know, every thought leads to a desire. Every desire leads to an action. Every action leads to a habit. Every habit shapes our character. And our character determines our destiny. It all begins in the mind. We’re asking the question “Why write?” Writing is a most wonderful way of growing in intellectual humility. Cardinal Newman explains why more people do not write. The reason, he explains, is that “I have to read what I have written. I must look at myself as I really am.” Writing is a mirror of our minds. And what we see, we blink [at]. What fool wrote this? I must see the vagueness of my thinking, the inconsistencies of my logic, the triviality my life; and the experience is humiliating. [This is] my regular habit in writing for publication: the average is, from when I have finished a manuscript the first time, I reread, change, improve, rewrite, seven times on average before it goes to print. There’s only one way of becoming humble. Only one. That is the road of humiliation.
The deepest humiliation is being humiliated in our own eyes. I’ve encouraged too many people to write. By now they’ve given me a hundred excuses. The single main reason why more people don’t write is pride. Let me repeat. The single main reason why more people don’t write, especially for publication, is pride. Writing is a proved way of lowering myself in my own estimation my looking in my real self. It has now [been] 25 years [since] I’ve been teaching Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity. In none of their 500 homes throughout the world do they have a single mirror. How many times I’ve told the Sisters, “You don’t need a mirror, you must grow in humility by writing.” I’m so happy to report after 25 years the Missionaries of Charity write! I’m giving a lecture around. Somebody’s not writing; a long pause. “Sister, find a pen and paper and start writing”. Writing is a mirror of our minds. There is no way known to man for more surely and effectively growing in humility, than by writing, and of course, then by reading what you write; rereading and changing.

In God’s mercy, I have published many books. I don’t know a single book that I have ever published in there was not at least one, sometimes several, stupid mistakes. We are addressing ourselves to writing and the spiritual life. I’m explaining why writing is such a precious asset of the spiritual life. Writing provides us with a record of the graces we have received. How grateful we can be to the people who have done favors to us. But, by writing we keep a record of the inspirations and illuminations that God gives us. One reason why some of the great saints of history have written so much is [that] they wished to keep a record of the graces [they had] received from God in their meditation and mental prayer. Hear it: “We shall love God only as deeply as we realize how good God has been to us.” Gratitude is a bedrock of love. The deepest gifts that God gives us are the graces with which He illuminates and inspires us. On the one hand, writing helps to keep us humble by giving us visible proof of our own weakness and folly.

I can’t believe it. I entered the Society of Jesus Sept 1, 1936. How many here have been born before Sept 1, 1936? In my desire to obey my father in God, St. Ignatius, I have kept a written record every single day of my Jesuit life. Needless to say, a record of my failings, of course, I have my own special shorthand. They can read it, but they won’t know what’s there. I have also [kept] a daily record of the graces God has given me. We shall love God only in the measure that we are grateful to Him for the blessings He has given us. How many saints would never have been canonized unless, either under the direction of their own superiors, or the orders of their spiritual directors they had put the graces God had given them into writing like the latest doctor of the universal Church, [St. Thérèse of Lisieux]. Never went to high school. Never went to college. My friends, you don’t have to go to college to receive extraordinary graces from God. Keep a record of both your failings and the graces God gives you. I can say from personal experience, it’s a wonderful way of growing both in humility and in the love of God.

We are answering basically one question, “Why, why, why is writing so precious?”. Writing cultivates the memory. There are two statements that I’m going to ask you to remember. “The capacity of the human mind to forget is infinite.” Repeat after me: “The capacity of the human mind to forget is infinite.” Whatever you forget, don’t forget that. Second thing to remember: “We remember what we want to remember.” A good memory is one that remembers what should be remembered—and hear it—and forgets what should be forgotten. How does writing cultivate our memory? By writing down our thoughts, and especially our spiritual experiences, we make a strong act of the will to remember what we have written. I’ve watched too many people in conversation; the thoughts, if you call them such, ooze out of their mouths. [We must write] in order to have in our memories what God wants us to remember. In teaching priests, my own Jesuits—over 600 of them in theology for 25 years—I told them. Fathers or priests-to-be, write so that you will remember what you should remember. I’ll never forget, years ago, one of my spiritual fathers told me to keep a record of the interesting experiences I had: episodes, anecdotes, stories. In six weeks I had over 200. By now, I have several thousand. What a difference. What a difference between having a cultivated memory through writing and then engaging in conversation! Of course, you don’t put on a set of notes and engage in conversation. You [use those things that you] have written and remembered and then you choose what you say, say what you should say, and make your conversation interesting.

One reason in making even a brief notation, say, a quotation of one of the saints, helps to fix in our minds what he wrote down. After, (I’m not exaggerating), assembling over 5,000 quotations from the saints, I thought I had enough. At least for a while. That’s why the Church canonizes saints. To assure us that they are really in heaven. Infallibly in Heaven. But secondly, to leave us a record of their lives, especially a record of their words. So that by remembering what the saints wrote, we, too, might join their heavenly company.

It is a good idea to begin collecting a choice of these sayings of the masters of the spiritual life as a powerful aid for deepening our own spiritual resources. The next two sentences are crucial. Whatever is memorized becomes part of the treasury of our mind. Hear it: We have nothing [he blows to simulate wind], nothing on our minds except what we
have memorized.” Over the years of study in the Society of Jesus, I finished my doctoral studies in biochemistry, finished my graduate studies in psychology, and then I got a doctorate in theology. I cannot tell you how many educated, empty minds are walking the streets of our country. Our memorized thoughts become part of the treasure of our mind. Our memorized thoughts contribute to everything we think, say, or do for the rest of our lives. We can think only with what’s in the mind. And what’s in the mind is in the memory. Not just words; not just letters; but thoughts. And the surest way of remembering ideas is to write them out.

We’re still on the question of “why.” Why writing is so important for the spiritual life. Writing provides us with a moral inventory. St. Ignatius Loyola stressed the importance of a daily review of our conduct and it put into written form. This serves many purposes; especially for it shows how serious we are about overcoming our failures. The last thing we want to admit, we proud mortals, the last thing we want to admit are our failures, our mistakes. I make sure that the doors are closed more than once [before] aloud I said “Hardon, you idiot!” What fools we mortals can be. Keep a record of your folly! It is good for your humility. Writing as a moral inventory shows how honest we are about growing in the virtues we need. May I ask, how many of you have ever read the autobiography of Benjamin Franklin? I recommend it to all of you. He was our first ambassador to France. He came to know some Jesuits in France. They taught him how to keep a daily inventory of his moral behavior. He decided that he had twelve principle moral failings. It is all in print. So he divided them into twelve months. One month for each failing. Everyday of each month for thirty days, he kept a written record of his failings. He wrote, “I owe most of my success, such as I’ve had, to keeping a daily record (inventory) of my moral behavior.”

Why is writing to keep a moral inventory so important? It gives us the opportunity of looking back over the progress, if any, that we have made in our imitation of Christ. Oh, how forgetful we can be of our failings. Keep a record! Finally, keeping this moral inventory in writing makes us conscious during the day what we plan to put down in some written form at the end of the day. You hear something. You read something. I’d better put that down in writing! If I have not done that I would have never, I don’t say, published several million words; I would not have published 100 words in my life.

We go on, on why writing in the spiritual life is so important to cultivate the art of speaking. We are told by St. Ignatius according to St. James the Apostle, St. James in the third chapter of his letter--read it. Here’s what he says: “Every kind of beast and bird, serpents, and the rest is tamed by mankind. But the tongue no man can tame—a restless evil, and full of deadly poison” (James 3:7-8). The Apostle does not mean that we cannot tame the tongue; what he means is that we cannot tame it alone. We need the constant help of God and God will give us the grace to tame these wild beasts if we do our part. A most valuable way of taming our tongue is to write down our thoughts while saying a prayer before we start writing, as we write, and after we have written, to obtain the divine light to see what God wants to say and the divine help to say it. I know the Sisters who care for the Holy Father’s private household; his domestic needs; take care of his personal, private correspondence. He’ll go at night, after midnight. Strange sounds. Holy Father’s private chapel. They get out of bed and see what’s going on. Holy Father was in the sanctuary writing before the Blessed Sacrament. People who do this, (we are speaking about, remember, taming the tongue), go a long way in taming their tongues as God wants them to.

We have the grace required to write down our thoughts, are a major contribution to mastering speech. Too often we speak without first thinking. But we cannot write without thinking. We can babble all kinds of nonsense in speech. We cannot write without thinking. The most important faculty to master in our lives here on earth is the faculty of speaking.

Again, quoting the Apostle James, “If anyone who does not offend in word, he is a perfect man” (James 3:2). I’m almost finished. In our last part, “why write?” For the practice of charity in sharing our souls. Writing, we’ve said, is a proved trainer of the tongue to prevent us from failing in charity through speech. But there’s more to the practice of charity than merely avoiding failures against this virtue. Charity is above all sharing with another person what I have in order to enrich that person whom I love. What is our dearest possession? Our dearest possession is the gifts of the Holy Spirit has so generously given to us. If I’m to share these gifts of my soul—let’s be honest—are not my lips making strange sounds? Speaking to your ears? No! It is my soul speaking to your souls! If I’m to share these gifts of my soul with others, I must do several things. I must acquire as much grace, as much of God’s wisdom as I can by reading, by prayer, and by self denial. For my record, I share, as occasion arises with others, of the goodness of the Lord has given to me. It would be a good idea if we started keeping a written record of past experiences, interesting episodes, uplifting sentiments, whether our own or those we receive from others. Remember when Our Lord foretold about the last day? We shall finally be judged on the practice of the virtue of charity..........................
“I was hungry, you gave me to eat! I was thirsty and you gave me to drink” What is the deepest hunger of the human heart? It is for the truth. What is the deepest thirst of the human soul? It is for God’s love. What God in His wisdom and love has shared with us, keep a record of that. Share that wisdom and love with others and make sure you share what Our Lord has given you by writing it down and thus you’ll be practicing that one virtue on which your and my salvation depends. I thank you for the privilege of speaking to you. Thank you.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Father, is there a particular question you ask yourself before performing your examination of conscience before you write in your journal to determine what to write down?

A: Yes. There are three questions that are basic to Christian spirituality.

The first question is, what, during the past day, should I thank God for to inspire my gratitude. You know that there are two kinds of blessings. There are pleasant blessings and there are painful blessings. So first, what during the day should I thank God for? Then express your gratitude and keep a record.

The second question. What have I done that I shouldn’t have done or not done what I should have. Where have I failed? Don’t go to sleep until you come up with at least one thing you’ve done wrong during the day. So second, what have I done wrong?

Thirdly, plan the next day. An unplanned life is a disordered life. Plan the next day. What am I to do? How much time do I wish to spend? How will I do what I believe God wants me to do in the next 24 hours? By the way, as I’m sure you all know by studying Latin, the Latin verb for “to do” is agere. The gerundive for that verb to do is agenda, things that should be done! That’s part three of every good examination of conscience. Does that help?

Q: You said to write down your daily faults and graces and you also suggested that we write down particular experiences that have happened to us? A: That’s different. Q: Do you keep them in a different spot or do you write them with your three questions you just answered?

A: You see, I have various places in which I write things. Now, whenever I travel I always take with me what I call my examen book. In which I keep a record of my daily conduct. That is one thing. Over the years I have kept notebooks in which I would write. For years I kept a daily diary or log. Moreover, for years I have kept a record of episodes, events, that I wanted to use in conversation or communication with people. So there are different places of writing which I have kept over the years, among which, specifically, is the examen book. Now I use my own shorthand, and I’ve been using for years what we call the Ordo, that is, the list of every day of the Ecclesiastical year. [It contains] what Mass to be said, saint to be commemorated, what reading needs to be done. But there’s always plenty of space around each day which I fill with my shorthand. I carry this Ordo with me wherever I go. Last night before I retired, I wrote out my record for yesterday, and before I’ll retire tonight, I’ll fill that out for my record today. So, [you need] different books, different notebooks, booklets that you keep a record in. All I can tell you is, it will change your lives, if with God’s grace you decide to write.

Q: What, if any, are the dangers in writing?

A: I suppose one danger would be that I’d agree that people might want to read what you write. Then you have to work out your own hieroglyphs, your own ways of expressing things. You say certain things that nobody except the Lord knows what it means. So of course you don’t pass this around, you don’t show people these things. There are certain things that you just never write down. As a priest, one of the great gifts of the priesthood is the capacity to forget! Am I clear? And one sure way to forget is not to write. But if something should be remembered and is worth remembering, but what should not be read by others, (unless until later on some occasion we will want to use it), then it should be kept somewhere, privately, even under lock and key. So I’ve never really worried about what I had written being dangerous because this is why you have to pray, “Lord, what should I write?” But, the treasure, the precious gift of writing, is beyond anything that these sinful lips of mine can tell you. Writing is a great grace from God.
Q: There are many illiterate people in the world. What would you advise them?

A: All illiterate people should be trained to write! That is a precious gift from God and before the Bible was written, even Genesis for centuries for having God’s revelation. However He chose Chaldaea and Asia Minor to enlighten human beings in Asia Minor how to write alphabetically. Most of the people in China to this day do not write alphabetically. As only in the alphabetical language in which, the divine inspiration could have been written down. So teach them to write! Great charity.

Q: Since we do not know what God is planning for us for tomorrow, what do you mean by “we should plan for the following day” since we don’t know what God is planning for us?

A: Thanks for the question. That’s one of the main reasons for praying. “Lord, what do you want me to do?”. He, needless to say, knows the future. He knows what He wants us to do. Give a problem--my, there are no problems in life. No problems in life! Zero! What we call problems are all acts of Divine Providence.

God wants you to do something. You have a problem. Pray. Ask for light. Then, you find out what God wants. We still have a problem: we don’t want to do it! So we pray again, “Lord, now that I know what You want me to do, I’m scared, give me the grace to do it.” I would never have left my widowed mother alone, in very bad health, and entered the Society of Jesus, unless I had prayed that You help me to. What does God want me to do? I was accepted for medical school. So pray, and pardon me, since we don’t know what God is planning for us, mamma mia!, pray! Ask for light!

How do you know when you have got the light from God? How do you know? The first condition is you must be totally, completely open to God’s will. Ready. Write: “Lord, I don’t know what You want, but I mean it, I want to do Your will.” That’s the precondition. Then ask for light. The thoughts you get about what you think now is God’s light telling you what to do. If that brings you peace of mind, that is God speaking to you. We are never, never, never thinking alone. Never, never. God is always thinking with us, for us, and enlightening us what He wants us to do. Being open to His will brings us peace--that doesn’t mean it’s going to be easy. Maybe we’ll be scared. So what? If I’m at peace, I’d do it. Now the beauty is, after a while you become so used to getting instructions from the Lord, you just assume. You are ready and willing, holding nothing back, “Whatever you will, Lord.” Then pray, and if the thoughts should come to your mind giving you peace, they are from God. If they disturb you, forget it.

Q: How can you be at peace if you are afraid?

A: Well, there are two kinds of peace. First of all, there is peace of mind, and there is peace of heart. Peace of mind is knowing the truth. Peace of heart is doing God’s will. Now, what we must do is constantly distinguish between our feelings and our mind and our will. Can we be afraid once we know what God wants? Can we be afraid? But, if my mind tells me something is God’s will and I’m afraid, do I not do it because I’m afraid? In other words, to not allow our fears to guide our minds, we must ask ourselves, why, why am I afraid? Am I afraid because I will fail? Am I afraid because I will make a fool of myself? I repeat, once my mind enlightened by faith, I must be open, really open, to doing God’s will. My mind tells me: “This is God’s will.” You can pray and ask God to give you strength to overcome your fear. But don’t you dare avoid doing it just because you are afraid! And as we say in Rome, oh, mamma mia! No. We have to have courage. And courage comes from conviction. My mind is sure that something is God’s will and I do it! I wouldn’t be standing here. I wouldn’t have done so many things I thought God wanted me to do if I were afraid. I could talk for hours! Thanks for the question!

Q: How do you use what you have written to help other people? How exactly do you share the gifts of God with others?

A: Obviously, the one principal way that I share is by writing. Could I mention a strong recommendation, (unless you already have one here at Thomas Aquinas College)? Do you have a Catholic writers’ institute? That is one way. This will make my trip to California worthwhile! Form a writers’ guild. I formed one in New York City, we have an office there. I formed one for my own Jesuits, the Jesuits Writers Guild. In other words, put your thoughts on paper for publication. The market is vast. What I have done over the years in organizing writers’ guilds is to first find those who are more able and willing to write. they should agree that they’re going to write. Then, I would write to publishers, editors of magazines, that I’m organizing a writers’ guild. I assure a magazine that the writers’ guild would be consistent with editorial policy, the length of words, vocabulary on their level, and I ask “Are you interested?”. I got
more affirmative replies from editors than I could cope with. In one year, my own Jesuits, all still in studies, published 85 articles in national magazines. Organize a writer’s guild. I’ve organized a publishing house where I live in Detroit. I live in a Jesuit rectory and my office is at what’s called “Grotto Assumption Parish.” So we’ve organized “Grotto Press,” a publishing house. After the second Vatican Council, 12 major, good publishing houses closed shop. We need Catholic publishers. I would be happy to help Thomas Aquinas College to start a Catholic press. That is very simple. You don’t do the printing. Somebody else does the printing. All you need is a market. First law of publishing is market. Second law of publishing is market. Third law of publishing is market. Somebody tells me, “Father, as long you make money for us we’ll publish anything you like.” The market is vast. Good Catholic books are desperately needed. So, I hope I’ve answered the question. Publish. I will help you people if you wish, on both levels. A writers’ guild and Thomas Aquinas Publishing House!

Q: This is inspiring. In say, three weeks from now, when our memory and enthusiasm are flagging a bit, what do you suggest we do to keep this thought that you’ve presented alive?

A: First of all, I think it should be part of a policy of this wonderful college to train Catholic writers for the twenty first century. It means of course, not so much training in the art of writing as training in the art of clear thinking.

I would then suggest: 1. Within a month or so that you form a writers guild. I would be very happy to assist you. 2. I would suggest that the Board of Directors give serious thought by the fall of 1998 to plan on having Thomas Aquinas College become a Catholic publisher. 3. I think if you want to, you can develop, with the faith you’ve got here, one of the most influential publishing, and I mean my words, publishing houses in the United States. I am very happy to help you in any way that I can.

Mr. Blewett: Mr. DeLuca, are you checking the budget to see if we have the budget for a publishing house here?

Fr. Hardon: You don’t need a budget! My first book was published in Virginia, about the churches of America. The owner of the publishing house was not even a Catholic, had never married. He told me, “Father, I started publishing with $20 and a broken typewriter. In ten years, I was millionaire.” That’s one way to start. A publisher publishes. What he did, he told me, was to contact writers of good Catholic books and he offered these publishing companies his services as an agent. The average earnings on a book by a publisher is 40 to 50 percent of the retail price. If you’ve got good Catholic books that you want to promote, you publicize and then arrange with the publisher in such a way that you don’t start up with unsold books. They could be on consignment. If you sell, for example, a 1000 books with 50 percent royalty and the books sell for say $15, that’s $7.50 profit per book. you sell those 1000 books and you make $7500. You don’t need money to start a publishing house. You just have to know how to do it. Thanks for the question.

I never like to close without a prayer. In the name of the Father...Hail Mary...Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. O, my heart! Thank you for the privilege!
Free Handouts

World Communications Day

Presented by the
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.,
Media Apostolate
World Communications Day

FREE HANDOUTS

MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

This display table should consist of “no cost” items that Committee members came across in their search for material to put on their own individual tables. All Committee members will be responsible for contributing to and hosting this exhibit table. This will be a table for free items not wanted or needed by the other Committee members for their tables.

A table designated “Free Handouts” table provides many items for the taking, for example:

PAMPHLETS/BOOKLETS

- Magnificat (latest edition)
- Novena
- How to Say the Rosary
- Divine Mercy
- One Bread, One Body

CATHOLIC BOOKS (IN GOOD CONDITION)

- Prayer
- Inspirational
- Information, i.e., *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- Biographies/Saints
ITEMS

- Rosaries
- Medals
- Magnets
- Key Rings
- Bookmarks
- Braille Prayer Cards
- Holy Cards
Alternate Ways To Celebrate World Communications Day
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

FOR THOSE WITH LIMITED RESOURCES:

OTHER WAYS TO CELEBRATE
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

The suggested WCD manual outline may sound a bit daunting, but it is very do-able if you have enough time, money and the dedicated volunteers. If, however, it seems too formidable, don’t give up. There are other ways you can celebrate World Communications Day.

- Insert the Holy Father’s World Communications Day message in your parish bulletin.
- Concentrate on only one or two of the points in the main WCD manual outlined in this manual.
- Hold a letter-writing workshop.
- Hold a reception in your church hall and ask your pastor or other representative from the church to give a talk on the World Communications Day message.
- Hold a book fair and sell donated and/or used faith-related books.
- Sponsor a “film festival” for the family.
- Ask a local vendor of Catholic books to set up a display and sell books, videos and educational materials.
- Where applicable, ask a representative from your local Catholic radio station or Catholic diocesan newspaper to give a presentation on the modern means of social communication and the Holy Father’s message for World Communications Day.
- Distribute a listing of movie ratings and recommended videos.