



From the Well to the World: Evangelization and Catechesis

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
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Outline ...

I. The Issue

II. Consequently

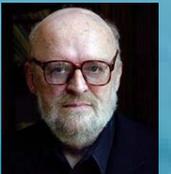
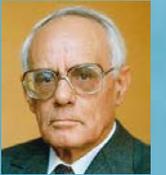
III. Some Metaphors to Digest

IV. Moving Forward

V. Supplemental: Innate tensions within the Church

I. The Issue ...

- *“Never take for granted that everyone alive at the same time belongs to the same generation.” (Karl Rahner)*
- *We are living at a time when four different generations are all meeting within the same generation. We are a mixture of "pre-modern", "modern", "post-modern", and "anti-modern", all within a single generation (David Tracy)*



1. Our emptying and graying churches

2. The growing marginalization of the churches in the mainstream culture

3. The reluctance of so many of our own to walk the path of explicit faith with us.

I. The Issue ...

4. The pathological individualism within the culture.

5. A Church “divided” – Internal tensions

- Between the “Son of David” and “Adonai”
- Between the “Kenotic” and the “Triumphal” Christ
- Between a vision for evangelization, for catechesis, and for theology*

II. Consequently ...

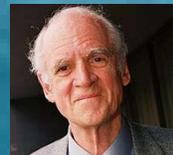
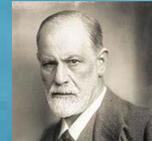
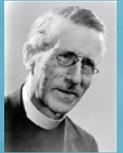
- The need for a new “apologetics” – to respond to secularity with a new imaginary
- The need to be more robust vis-a-vise the “missionary dimension” of the Church - Leaving the “99” to go after the stray
- The need to understand more clearly the relationship between evangelization, theology, and catechesis
- The need for to move beyond our internal divisions

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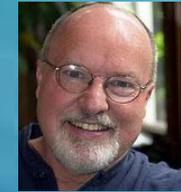
III. Some metaphors to digest – Where are we at?

- *Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger* – “A post-Christian West”
- *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin* – “A world still in diapers”
- *Sigmund Freud and the Enlightenment* – “Faith as a spent project”
- *Thomas Halik* – “Faith in the West as suffering noon-day fatigue”
- *Thomas Halik* – “Secular humanism and Christianity today, facing off as ‘younger brother’ and ‘older brother’ in the parable of the Prodigal Father
- *Charles Taylor* - We are experiencing a crisis of imagination rather than a crisis of faith and fidelity. The “conditions of belief have changed”. There is a new “social imaginary”



III. Some metaphors to digest – Where are we at?

- *Kathleen Norris and Louis Dupre* – Secular culture as the adolescent and grandiose child of Judeo-Christianity
- *Richard Rohr* – “In the belly of the whale”
- *Walter Kasper* – “Christian vision in the West as a detached retina”
- *Rod Dreher* – The need for “The Benedict Option”
- *Some Salient biblical images:*
 - ✚ “Sodom and Gomorrah”
 - ✚ “The Desert”
 - ✚ “The Exile”
 - ✚ “On the Road to Emmaus”
 - ✚ “Waiting in the Upper Room”



IV. Moving Forward ...

A. A “Catholic” Approach ...

- “Love the world, as God loves it”
- Love the world in spite of its opposition and sin
- Be in the world, but not of the world
- Be careful that in our challenging the world we are not fighting God
- Remember the Catholic principle: The world is flawed but not corrupt.
- Live in hope and faith in the Gospel: *“The Gospel can stand up to the present age”*.

B. Ten Commandments for the Long Haul ...

- 1. Recognize the urgency, centrality, and Gospel-mandate of the new Evangelization.**
- 2. Work to re-inflame the romantic imagination and bring together “energy” and “wisdom”**
- 3. Emphasize both catechesis and theology.**
- 4. Use a multiplicity of languages.**
- 5. Appeal to the idealism of people, particularly the young.**
- 6. Evangelize beyond any ideology of the right or the left.**
- 7. Remain “Catholic” in our evangelization.**
- 8. Preach both the freedom of the Gospel and its call today for a new maturity.**
- 9. Give a special witness to fidelity.**
- 10. Never bracket the essentials of respect, charity, and graciousness and to be patient with each other and with God.**

V. Supplemental - The component parts of church and their innate tensions:

- 1) The liberal in tension with the conservative**
- 2) The theological in tension with the devotional**
- 3) The liturgical in tension with the pastoral**
- 4) The Eucharist in tension with the Word**
- 5) Private morality in tension with social justice**
- 6) The prophetic in tension with diocesan structures**
- 7) Compassion in tension with the programmatic**
- 8) Missionary in tension with maintenance**
- 9) Denominational commitment in tension with ecumenism**

V. Supplemental - The component parts of church and their innate tensions:

10) Christian commitment in tension with other religions

11) Individual charism in tension with community needs

12) Aesthetics in tension with simplicity of life

13) The "pagan" in tension with the "theistic"

14) "Energy" in tension with "wisdom"

15) Letting ourselves be evangelized by the world in tension with being Christian missionaries carrying the message and person of Jesus Christ

16) Being "set apart from" in tension with "being in identity with" the larger community

17) The tension between personal holiness and the wider agenda of Vatican II