



U.S. Embassy to the Holy See



SEMINAR ON COMMUNICATION FOR RELIGIOUS LIFE

THE CHURCH IN THE DIGITAL CULTURE

* Religious communicate to enhance the mission *

March 9th, 2018 - 9.30-12.30 at UISG

*Presenters: Bishop Paul Tighe, Pontifical Council of Culture
Sr. Bernadette Reis, Vatican Communication Secretariat*

Launch of 'Communicator for Women Religious Handbook'

UISG – Piazza di Ponte Sant'Angelo, 28 - Roma - www.uisg.org - 3280722672

The Church in a Digital World: Culture and Mission

UISG – Seminar on Communication for Religious Life

Rome, 09/03/2018

Paul Tighe, Pontifical Council for Culture

Mission



Church: Identity and Ministry

- Mission – bring Good News to ends of the earth
- Message – person, relationship and community
- Internal – constitutive ecclesial activity
- Expression (body language) – identity and profile
- Explicit attention – never more urgent
- Communication – information and relationships
- Social media – reinforces relational dimension
- Peripheries – physical and existential

Digital World



Digital World

- Revolution/Transformation – cultural, change in communications, on-going
- Internal – identity, nature and dynamics of belonging
- Digital is real – avoid dualism, recognise centrality
- Integrated – blended, augmented, existential environment
- Presence – absence, effective (*@pontifex*)
- Digital is different – new, ‘continent’, language and culture
- Ecosystem – network, beyond instruments and use
- Right question

Presence



Presence

- Citizens and Believers
- Listen, converse and encourage
- Neighbour – mercy, tenderness (Good Samaritan)
- No ulterior purpose – fellow pilgrims
- Giving a soul – depth, vulnerability
- Sharing source of hope – faith, gift, conviction
- Witness – authenticity, profile (*not bombarding*)
- Time to speak – time to let love speak (Deus caritas est, 31)

Language



Language

- Style – conversational, participative, engagement
- Institutional challenge – subsidiarity, devolved interactivity (glocal) *@pontifex*
- Modes – beyond text, multimedia (beauty), *warming hearts*
- Show rather than tell – experience of living (Stained Glass - Facebook, Youtube, apps)
- Vocabulary – words, icons, rituals (*grammar of simplicity*)
- Public debate – broadcasting, first language
- Vision, values and norms – Yes before No

Icons



Cultural Engagement



Cultural Engagement

- Celebrate the positive – avoid extremes
- Risks and abuses – determinism, agency (*in but not of*)
- Post-modernism – sceptical, suspicion, irony, humour
- Receptivity – yearning (literature, poetry)
- Mystery – respect conscience of other
- Drivers – connectivity, search, sharing, following and play
- Kerygmatic filter
- Critique (wealth, fame, power) – truth in love, liberate

Points of Insertion



Points of Insertion

- Connectivity – friendship; risk quantitative or shallow; potential blessing and profundity: *only with God*
- Search – information; risk numbers or emotional; potential reliability, trust and helpful: *truth/Truth*
- Sharing – gift; risk narcissism or performance; potential altruism and generosity: *give oneself*
- Following – guidance; risk polarization or sectarianism; potential dialogue and richness: *discipleship*
- Play – stimulation; risk distraction or isolation; potential imagination, art and beauty: *wonder and awe*

Challenge



EPIC FACEPALM

"EVEN JESUS THINKS YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG"

hifi-forum.de

Institutional Challenges

- Authority – earned/conferred not claimed (celebrity)
- Fora and Moderation – new authority
- Networks – poly-centric
- Church – richness, strategy
- Laity – Lumen Gentium 31 ('web'), *feed our base*
- Take risks – language, young
- Evaluate – learn, share
- Ministerial formation – human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral

Conversion



Conversion

- Witness/Authenticity – Encounter with Christ
- Who do you say that I am? – genuine and coherent
- Savouring the Word (*lectio divina*) – *actio segue esse*
- Silence and Solitude – listening, attention
- Turning other cheek
- Trust – professional and graced, no complacency yet
- Faith – mustard seed/yeast