

Fr. Jack Kennealy's Notes on Evangelii Nuntiandi - Evangelization in the Modern World for CSOL 10/21/20

10-year anniversary of the closing of Vatican II - Oct. 11, 1962-December 8, 1965

Quick simplified history of evangelization to Vatican II

1. Black death 1346-1353 30-50% of Europe died. Church fell into terrible shape. Up to 3 competing popes.
2. 1517 Martin Luther - if things were going well there would have been no need of reforms, instead his reforms found many willing to leave the Church. 1521 Luther formed a church with many others having competing churches.
3. Council of Trent 1545-1563 many reforms of the Church.
4. Time of exploration. Kings sending explorers to find new lands. Missionary activity accelerated which was to last until the early 1900's. Even though the people from Europe exploited the people and their land and this time was a time of colonialization of Asia and Africa, Christianity both Catholic and Protestant spread.
5. 1700's Deists among the new elite - God as watchmaker. Didn't accept Trinity or personal God.
6. By the 1800's, although Christianity was still strong, there began to be new ideas to challenge Christianity.

Charles Darwin saw a much older earth than was initially thought (many thought the earth was 6,000 years old). Darwin saw that species could change and evolve over long periods of time. Many took his ideas and didn't see the need for a God.

Karl Marx - came up with his manifesto which saw to change the order of the government and religion.

German Philosophers - Challenged the idea and need for a God.

Theologians questioned the authenticity of the Bible. Huge problem for Protestants because their authority based on the literal truth of the Bible, rather than the Church.

Vatican I (1869-1870) – Resist modernism and any questioning of the Church. Papal infallibility in areas of faith and morals.

Christianity continued to be strong, but there continued to be assaults on the existing order. By World War II it was said by a Protestant theologian that Christianity in Europe was a mile wide and an inch deep. People continued to go to Church, but at a declining rate. Christianity continued to be strong in Asia, Africa, Central America, and North and South America.

Vatican II – many wanted to double down on Vatican I, instead Church sought to open itself to the world. Mass in the vernacular, Ecumenical dialogue with Protestants and other religions, open to new ideas, religious order to see their charism, etc.

- How does the Church bring the gospel to all of the 20th century?
- Two fundamental commands of Jesus 1. Put on the new self and 2. Be reconciled to God.
- Third General Assembly of Synod of Bishops
- June 22, 1973 College of Cardinals “The conditions of the society in which we live oblige all of us therefore to revise methods, to seek by every means to study how we can bring the Christian message to modern man. For it is only in the Christian message that modern man can find the answer to his questions and the energy for the commitment of human solidarity (#3).”
 - What has happened to that hidden energy of the Good News, which is able to have a powerful effect on man’s conscience.”
 - To what extent and in what way is that evangelical force capable of really transforming the people of this century?
 - What methods should be followed in order that the power of the Gospel may have it effect? (#4)
- The message of the gospel is necessary and unique. It can’t be replaced. Not permitted is indifference, syncretism (think of the prophet Elijah on Mt. Carmel that people wanted a little Yahweh and a little Baal and Ashtaroth), or accommodation (people have suggested instead of bread and wine – change to something they are used to like beer or alcoholic beverage native to their country).
- Section 6 goes to the heart of what Jesus did in evangelization. Teaching, authenticating miracles, send out the twelve, cross and resurrection and promise of enduring presence.

- Section 9 center of Good News is salvation, Liberation from sin and the Evil One, the joy of being known by God and being given over to Him. The work continues until the end of time, which only the Father knows.
- Paradox in Section 10 Jesus evangelization available as grace and mercy, but must be taken by force (Mat 11:12). Through toil and suffering, the spirit of the beatitudes and the renunciation of self.
- Section 12 authenticating signs – the sick are cured, water is changed into wine, bread is multiplied and the dead are raised. After his death and resurrection, he sends the Holy Spirit.
 - Think of St. Paul – while he had some success among the Jewish people most of his success was among the Gentiles. He couldn't appeal to the Hebrew Scriptures, but his success was on mighty acts of power, and the Holy Spirit.
 - In Acts of the Apostles, people thought Paul and companions were Zeus and Herman after a miraculous cure.
- Section 14 End of the Great Assembly task and mission to evangelize more urgent given the vast and profound changes in society. To evangelize is to preach and teach, to be a channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners to God, and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice of the Mass. Grace is that favor that while still sinners God love us and sent his Son to reconcile us to God. Salvation comes by faith and faith is hearing and responding to the word of God.
- Section 15 – Christian community listens to the word, shows charity to others, and becomes a witness.
- Section 16- Problem that many think they can live out the Gospel and live without the Church. Witness of St. Paul "Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her (Eph 5:25) as St. Paul compares the love of a bride and groom to the love of God and the Church. This idea started soon after the reformation that there is a visible and invisible Church. The invisible Church are the true born-again believers and infallible and destined for eternal life, and the visible Church is sinful, human and fallible. See also Ephesians Chapter II.