



# SETTING THE CONTEXT

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*Where are we in the Life of the Church and how did we get here?*

# Goals for This Presentation

- Offer an overview of “where we are” as a society and as a Church
- Understand “how we got here” by tracing the gradual shift from a **personal / interpersonal** approach to evangelization to an **institutional** approach to evangelization over 2000 years
- Understand what is “new” about the New Evangelization

# Central Claim #1

- The Catholic Church cannot continue to do “business as usual”
- “Today, a “business as usual” attitude can no longer be the case.”

- Synod on the New Evangelization,  
*Lineamenta*, par. 10





# Support for Claim #1: Cultural Transition

## Former Intellectual Context

Definitions / Laws = point of departure for the way we live our lives

- E.G. Definition of human person = point of departure for moral conversation
- Scholasticism
- Rationality / Ideology / “Matching the ideal” = dominant

## Current Intellectual Context

LIFE = point of departure for definitions / laws

- E.G. Human experience = point of departure for moral choices
- Highly creative time
- Poetry / images / “creating the ideal” = dominant

# New Evangelization: A Passing Fad?

- **Anyone who believes the New Evangelization to be a passing fad is not paying attention to two truths:**
  - The Intellectual Culture has changed
  - The fact that the Church's mission *is to preach the Gospel, i.e. to evangelize.* The Church stops being the Church if she fails to evangelize.



# In Our Diocese

- In the 16 counties of the Diocese of Green Bay, the population is 1.2 million.
- Of that number 326,466 are registered Catholics. (2015)
- 54% of Catholics do not believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

<b>In the Past 10 Years</b>	<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Nationally</b>
Infant Baptisms	-30%	-25%
First Communion	-31%	-10%
Catechesis/RE Elem students	-46%	-23%
Catechesis/RE HS students	-57%	-19%
Confirmations	-26%	-7%
Marriages	-40%	-58%

# A Time of Hard Truths

- “The hard truth: Young people are leaving the Faith more rapidly and at a younger age than ever before”
  - 13 – typical age at which young people interviewed decided to leave the Church
  - 2/3 said they stopped being Catholic between 10 and 17
  - 23% said they left the faith by the age of 10
- 42% of millennials report never having had any kind of Catholic education (Catholic schools, religious ed)
- Only 13% said that they would ever consider returning to the Church



# A Time for Crucial Questions

- “Few people today . . . would deny that catechesis is a recurring pain point for the Church. The number of those enrolled in Catholic education is in steep decline. And few Church leaders . . . pause to ask a basic question: is our inherited model for parish-based religious education effective in today’s culture?”
- “Are we willing to confront that our model (processes and systems) for handing on the Faith might need a significant overhaul?”



# Central Claim #2

Over the course of the Church's 2,000 year history, we have witnessed a shift in evangelization:

**FROM**

**TO**

Personal  
(see slide below)

Ecclesial /  
Sacramental

Individual  
(See slide below)

Institutional

Mystagogical &  
Life Changing

Maintenance of the  
Church as a  
"Perfect Society"

**The New Evangelization marks a recovery of the former way of understanding the Church and evangelization.**

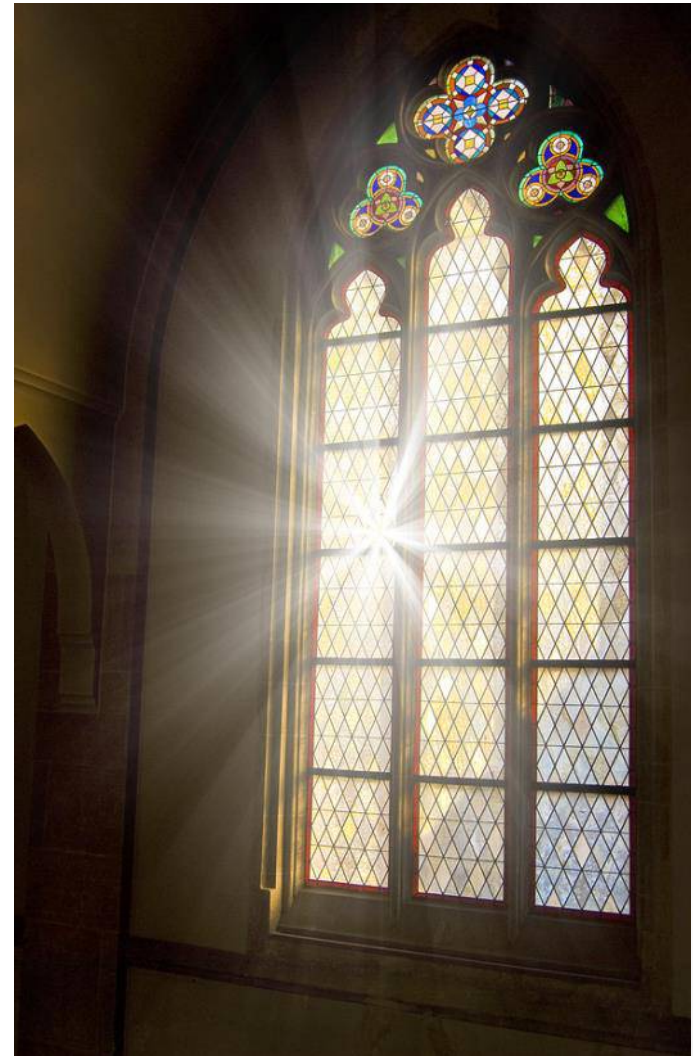
# “Individual” versus “Person”

- “Individual” describes the human condition *after sin*.
  - Isolated
  - Hostile
  - Cannot be point of departure for our understanding of Church
- “Person” describes the *redeemed* human condition.
  - In the image of God who *is* relationship; breathing the Life of Christ
  - Each life ontologically “sewn into” Christ and all of the baptized



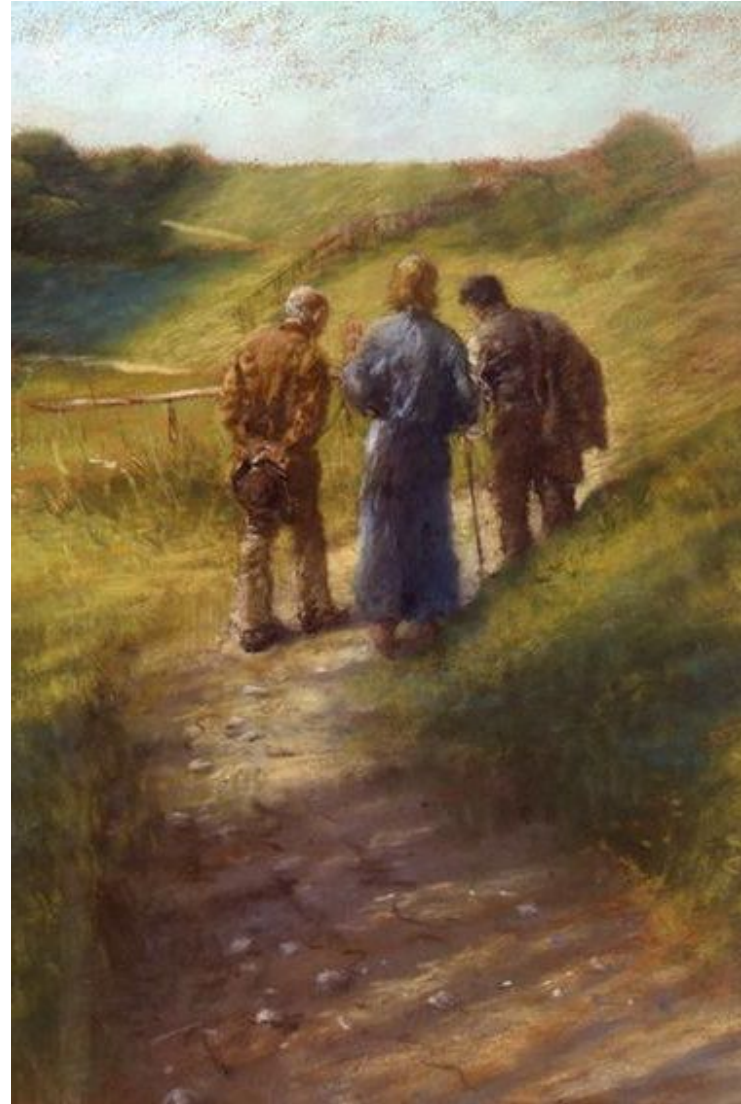
# Sacramental versus Institutional

- Ecclesial / Sacramental
  - Church is a place in which heaven and earth meet / are married
  - Church contemplating God / F, S, HS
- Institutional
  - Church mediates grace
  - Church contemplates herself and her structures to ensure that she is doing her job



# Mystagogical versus Maintenance

- **Mystagogical**
  - Mission = introducing persons to mystery of Christ's own life within the baptized
  - Lives are changed by the power of the Gospel
- **Maintenance**
  - Mission = introducing persons to sacramental practice and ecclesial discipline
  - Church bolsters her structures



# “Types” of Catholics in a Maintenance Model

- **“Professional”**  
Catholics/Christians
- **“Consumer”**  
Catholics/Christians



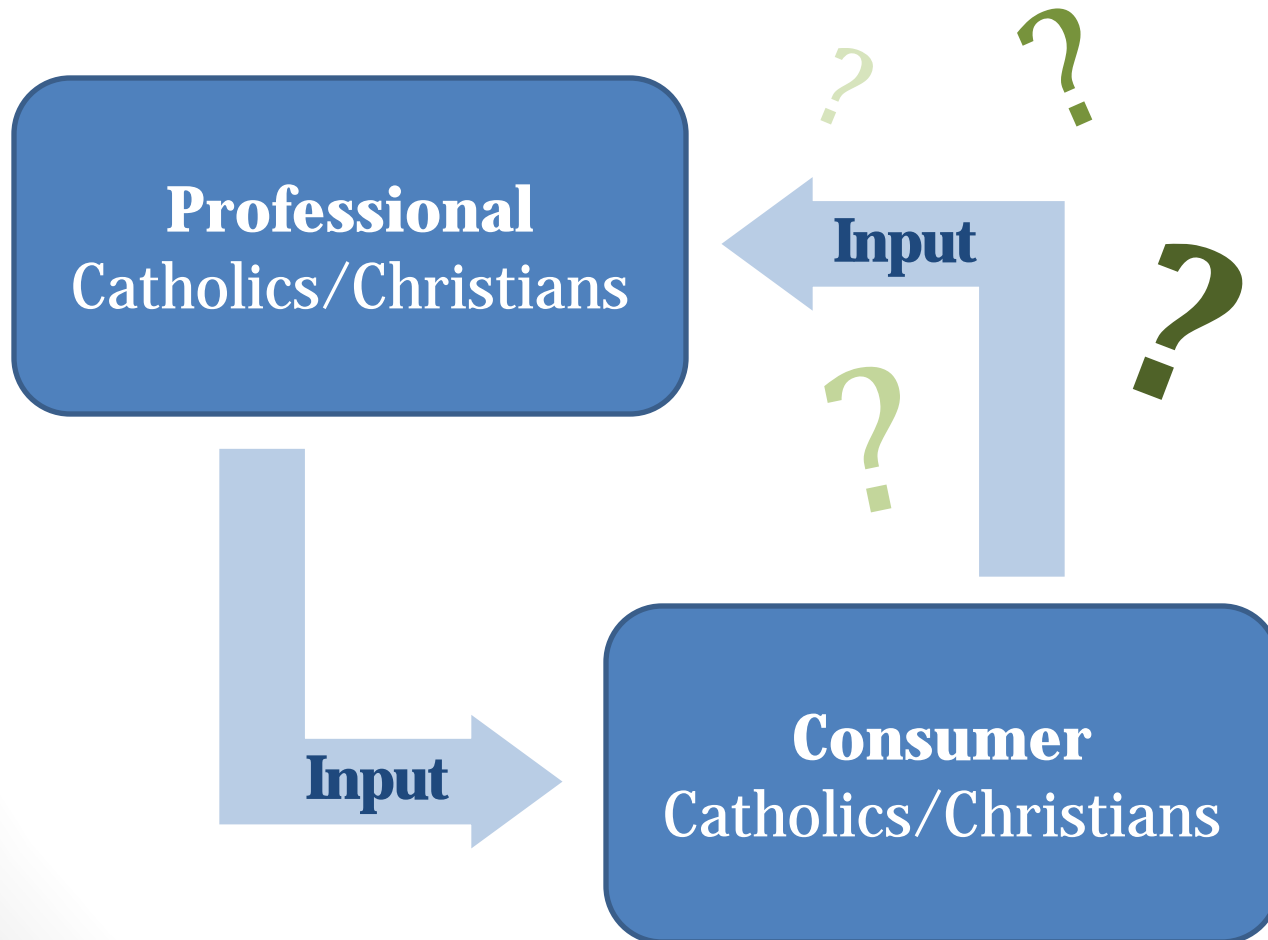
# Who are the “Professional” Christians?

- Bishop
  - Clergy
  - Religious
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- Lay Ecclesial Ministry / Leadership
    - Catechists
    - Youth Ministry / Adult Faith Formators
    - Parish Council Members
    - Church Business Managers

# “Consumer” Catholics in a Maintenance Model

- Those who go to Church on Sundays out of a sense of obligation or un-reflected habit
  - Even though they do not *experience* God as real / as wanting to be in relationship with them
- Those who send their children to parish catechetical programs out of a sense of obligation of un-reflected habit
  - Even though they experience little to no benefit to their children / their families

# “Consumer” Catholics in a Maintenance Model

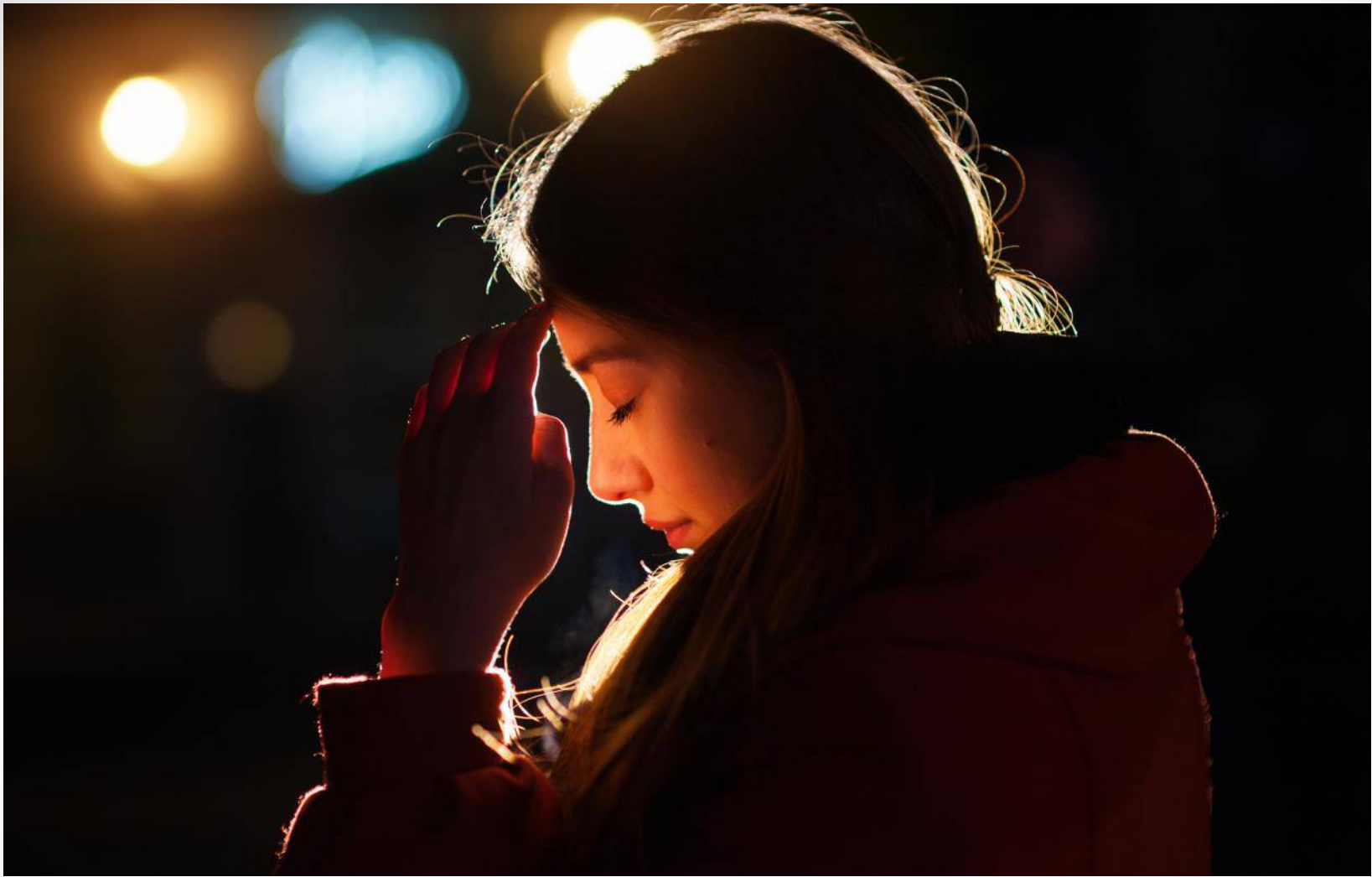




# Institutionalization of Church Ministry

- Parishioners feed / sustain parish ministry instead of parish ministry feeding parishioners
- Church Ministry tends to feel “monological” instead of “dialogical”
- Decisions are made out of a “positional” logic rather than out of a “relational” logic





# HOW DID WE GET HERE?

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Overview of Evangelization throughout Church History

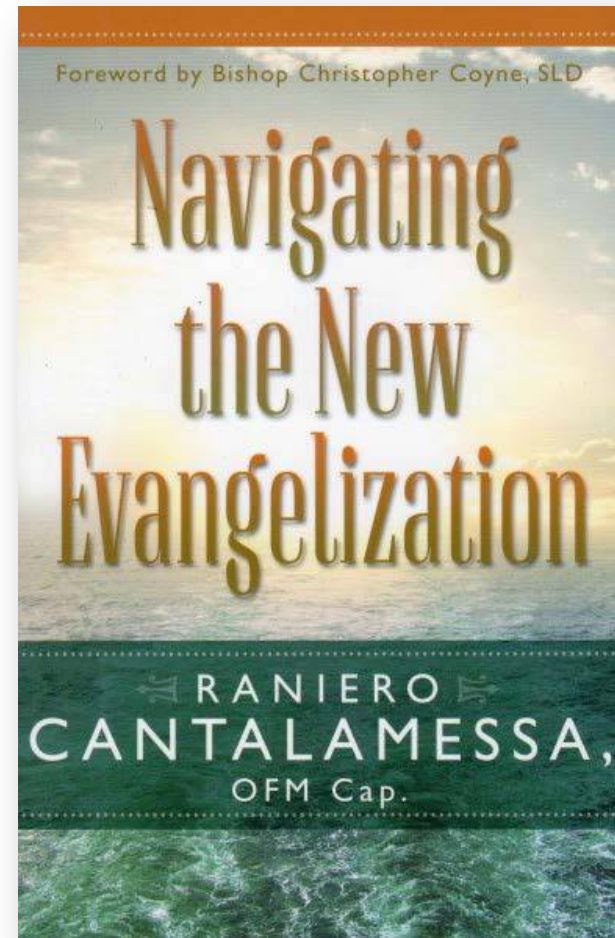
# Consequences?

- Growing numbers of “nones”.
- Those who are baptized but who leave the Church and who choose to live without any reference to their baptism.
- Those who are looking for relationships and who are given programs instead.



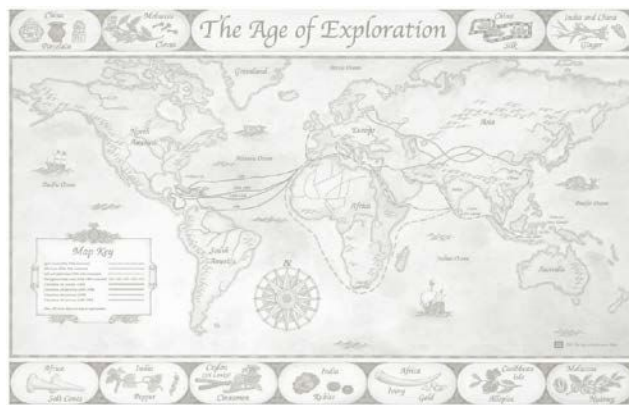
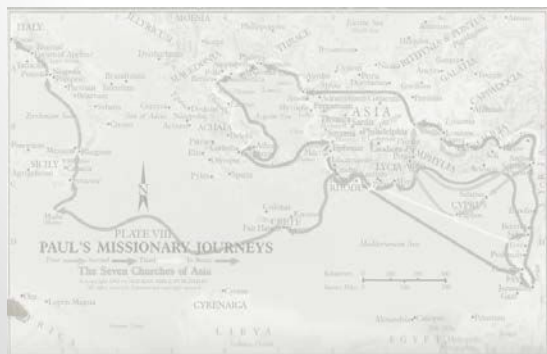
# Major Resource

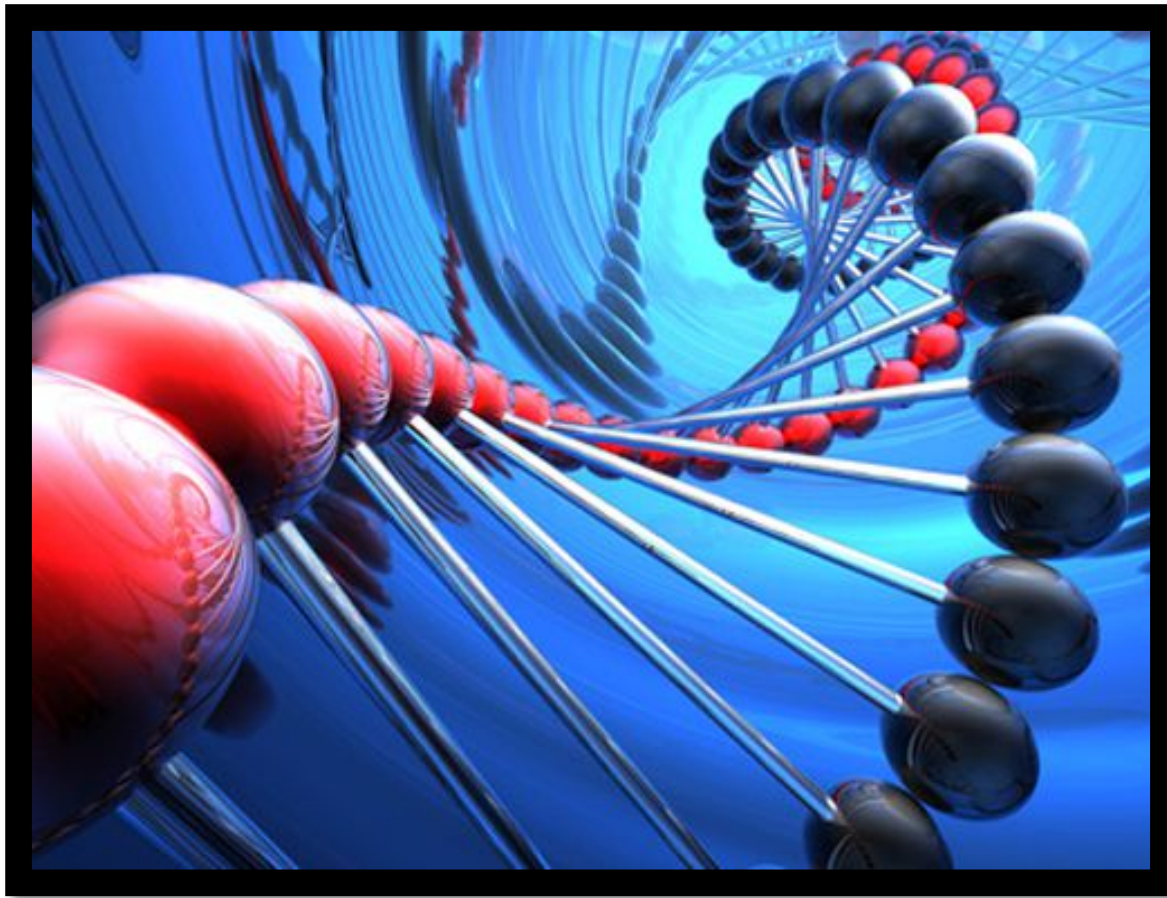
- R. Cantalamessa, *Navigating the New Evangelization*, Pauline Books and Media, 2014.



# History of Evangelization Overview

- **First Wave of Evangelization** – First Three centuries; Age of the Church Fathers. From the Baptized to the Bishops
- **Second Wave of Evangelization** – Middle Ages (5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries) – Age of Popes and Missionary Monks
- **Third Wave of Evangelization** – Age of Exploration / Early Modernity – Age of Colonizing Kingdoms and Mendicant / Jesuit Missionaries
- **New Evangelization** – Post-Modernity / Now, The Baptized

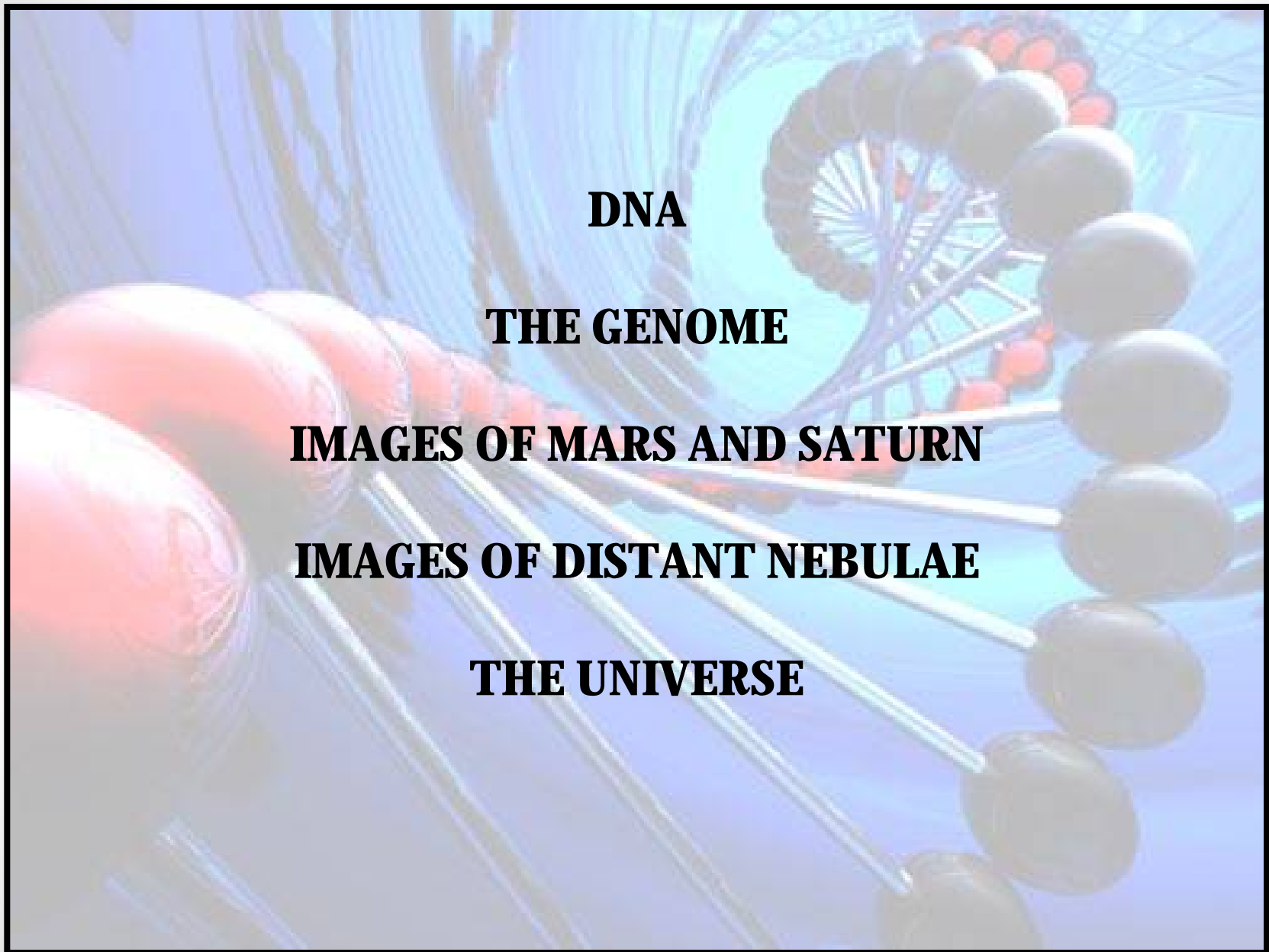




# EVANGELIZING THE “CATECHIZED”

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The New Evangelization



**DNA**

**THE GENOME**

**IMAGES OF MARS AND SATURN**

**IMAGES OF DISTANT NEBULAE**

**THE UNIVERSE**

# The New Evangelization

"People have to see the Gospel in the way we live....we are starting from Christ again. It means being familiar with him, staying within him, listening to him and learning from him".

- *Pope Francis*





# Central Message

“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen, and free you.”

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, par. 164

# The New Evangelization

- Addressed to those who have been baptized / the catechized who live without any reference to their baptism
- Protagonists – *all of the Baptized* in our capacity / vocation as baptized
- Methods
  - Primacy on LIFE / testimony of one's life. Jesus Christ has changed my life; my Baptism has made all of the difference
  - Pastoral approaches that are organically tied to the LIFE that the baptized live

*New programs miss the point:  
New / renewed Christians are the point.*

# The New Evangelization is a call to each person to:

- deepen his or her own faith,
- have confidence in the Gospel, and
- possess a willingness to share the Gospel.

*“It is a personal encounter with the person of Jesus, which brings peace and joy.” - USCCB, Disciples Called to Witness, 2012*



# Our Call in the New Evangelization

- Primacy of Witness of LIFE
- Urgency of going out to encounter others
- Pastoral Program that centers on the essential

