

Evangelization in Context

Before considering the subject issue, let us first consider the “context of evangelization”. This first consideration means to differentiate between authentic and inauthentic evangelization. Such differentiation is critical in considering what *context* is authentic and what is not.

Should content of Roman Catholic Evangelization differ from evangelization of other Christian religions, other religions? Evangelization in Roman Catholicism expects truth-propositions to be openly and critically considered by people of other religions; even as other religions (should) expect their faith-propositions to stand by the same truth-test. This rationality accepts that truth does not exclusively belong to Roman Catholicism, or to any other single religious persuasion, but that truth, no matter by whom it is proclaimed, will withstand the test of openness and critique. It is the truth-test that authenticates evangelization.

To the matter of evangelization “in context”: *context* is about the people and the times. Where the people are at, physically and consciously, in place and understanding, matters to evangelization. Disregard for circumstances of the times, and belief of the people, puts evangelization in a compromised position.

Christian evangelization generally, is out of step with the times and the people, in fixation in medievalism. Globally, worldview generally accepts evolution (Vatican II, Constitution IV, *Gaudium et spes*, Introduction V), but not Christian Evangelization; evolution is alienated from faith consideration and evangelization. *The absence of “consideration of evolution in evangelization”, is a critical failure of the truth-test, and compromises evangelization from the start.*

As Church, the **Holy Family Catholic Community of New Hampton** has as its first objective: self-evangelization within the area community. If evangelization is based on false worldview understandings, it lacks the basic context of authentic and effective instruction. Principle” *“Understanding that causes a problem lacks the wisdom necessary to correct the problem.”*

Frustrating evangelization is a worldview that has no context with evolutionary consciousness, the consciousness that informs personal correlations with natural processes. The word “medievalism” best captures what the problematic worldview; medievalism is a closed worldview locked in absolutism, in belief fixated in staticism, centrism and sexism, what is dead-end philosophy/ theology linked to patriarchal (Abrahamic) culture and imposed on global humanity. www.WordUnlimited.com

MEDIEVALISM is the evolved product of Worldview and Cult fixed in the “dogma” of STATICISM (male hierarchy and claim of exclusive, direct link to God), CENTRISM (Earth-centered universe and male centrism), and SEXISM (woman created from and for serving man); these presumptions are background to sibling “Wars of Religion”, and inauthenticity.

This "context" anathematizes evolution and falsely advances an absolutist (male) presumption that misinforms and misguides. The Christian experience was conformed to fit the ideologies of fixation and dominion. In the course of the Middle Ages, Medievalism hatched and grew full-fledged in overreach.

Clerical sexual abuse and high level cover-up are causally linked to medieval sexist culture. Read the signs of the times. The Creator communicated creation into existence from the beginning far before humankind appeared on the scene. Humankind is no external addendum dropped on the scene of creation, rather, humankind is a higher perfection naturally expressed by, from and in creation.

The Gospel of Good News, Evangelization, tells the purposeful lessons of wellbeing expressed in the physical/ energetic correlations of organisms with each other. Except we understand how we belong to and depend from vital correlations in and with cosmic evolution, we cannot authentically secure the processes of vital expression; evolution-wise, first there is Cosmogogenesis, then Metagenesis, then Theogenesis and Christogenesis — Intentional Eucharist, Christic Altruism. Christogenesis is the compassionate Gospel of Eucharistic Altruism taught and exemplified in the life and teaching of Jesus, the Christ, the *exemplar par excellence* of divine/ human identity, of authentic evangelization.

Meantime, Enlightenment, science and reason challenge cultic fideism and misconstrued presumptions evolved from the Garden of Eden Myth. Second Enlightenment continues to challenge fixity in religious misdirection. The Councils of Trent and the First Vatican anathematized Enlightenment and evolution science (Modernity). The Second Vatican Council opened theology to truths of science, Enlightenment and evolution. The new insights of evolution science, cosmological acentrism, and male-female equivalency are correctives of staticism, centrism and sexism.

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If we can understand the origin and nature of the cultural throes bedeviling us, we are better enabled to deal with them. We are heir to the imperial ideology/ theology of male patriarchal origin based on fixation in the Garden of Eden mythology of male dominion over Earth and Woman. Authentic evangelization needs to include basics of religious connection if its teaching would be religiously authentic. I don't see any Christian evangelization that is inclusive of THE ESSENTIAL CONTEXT of human community in and with Earth's evolving web-life community. If we are not faithful to Earth's essential and holistic community of life, all other context of humankind is in due course irrelevant.

Context is something our hierarchy lacks because it is something church from past to present never had, i.e., "context" of evolving nature and essential dependency of the human community on earth's web-life community. Church evangelization must always be aware of its "context" so that its "content" is not distorted. Vatican II meant to correct this medieval defect. Modern medievalists look with nostalgia for the glory days of male imperialism. They cannot return. The trajectory of evolution is forward. The angst and violence globally spread are about the death throes of Medievalism, and the birth pains of Liberation Theology and cultural reconciliation. E-Communication is the birth-death nurse presiding over the cultural/ religious procedures in process. It's time we all get on the right side of history and recovery. Sylvester L. Steffen, March 4, 2012

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/small-c-catholic/churches-must-remember-context-or-else-risk-irrelevancy>