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

"The Internet...is something truly good, a gift from God."

Pope Francis
Rome, Italy
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”
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