

New Evangelization e-Strategy for the Unchurched

Paul E. Cranley, April 24, 2014 (NCEA*)

1. Introduction

The World Wide Web turned 25 last month. Researchers recently found that in the US 87% of all adults and 97% of Millennials, ages 18-29, are now using the internet. Unfortunately, they have also found that 29% of Millennials now describe themselves as not affiliated with any religion. (1,2)

Pope Benedict XVI noted in 2010 that the Church is being challenged by “an abandonment of the faith—a phenomenon progressively more manifest in societies and cultures which for centuries seemed to be permeated by the Gospel.” (3) It is estimated that only 20-25 % of Americans raised Catholic are still practicing. In the UK, Mass attendance is down to 21%, the situation is far worse in France and Germany. (4)

We cannot reach the unchurched from the pulpit. However, since 90% of internet users go online from home each day (2), we can reach out to them via electronic means in their home, the Domestic Church. This is exactly what is happening today in an amazing Heavenly strategy to reach the unchurched worldwide through the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary. It all began 29 years ago, about 2 hours from here, just as the World Wide Web was being developed.

2. Historical Background

Let me back up and briefly discuss some Papal history.

Consecration of the World to the Sacred Heart

On June 11, 1899, inviting all the bishops to join him, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the human race to the Sacred Heart, writing “with this consecration he wished to obtain extraordinary benefits, first for Christianity, but also for the whole human race” and asked that not only believers but all people should be consecrated. In 1906 Pope Pius X directed that this consecration be renewed every year on the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

100 years later, Pope John Paul II, on the centenary feast of the Sacred Heart said “the consecration of the human race in 1899 represents an extraordinary important step on the Church’s journey and it is still good to renew it each year...In facing the challenge of the new evangelization, the Christian who looks upon the Heart of Christ and consecrates himself as well as his brothers and sisters to Him... realizes that he is the bearer of His light.” “ I wish to express my approval and encouragement to all who in any way, continue to foster, study and promote devotion to the Heart of Christ in the church with language and forms adapted to our times, so that it may be transmitted to future generations in the spirit which has always animated it.”(5)

Consecration of the World to the Immaculate Heart

In the 1700’s, St. Louis de Montfort taught a devotion for totally consecrating oneself to Jesus through Mary. Six popes, including John Paul II, have endorsed this consecration as the “best and most acceptable form” of Marian devotion. In the 20th century, along with JP II, Saint Maximilian Kolbe and Blessed Mother Teresa further developed this devotion. (6) Those Catholics who have followed this consecration formula know well its power to open the door to the Divine.

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It has been said “Devotion to the Heart of Jesus and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary have always been inseparably linked.” (7) Pope Pius XII said “In order that favors in greater abundance may flow on all Christians, nay, on the whole human race, from the devotion to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, let the faithful see to it that to this devotion the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of God is closely joined.” (8)

Pope John Paul II also wrote in 1986 “We can say that just as the mystery of Redemption began in the womb of the Virgin Mary, so did that splendid union of the Hearts of Christ and His Mother...The Heart of the Mother has always followed the redemptive mission of her Son...It is my prayer.. that your efforts will... promote devotion to the Hearts of the Son and His Mother in our day” (9)

Heavenly Responses to the Pope’s Prayers

What was the fruit of these 20th century Papal Ecclesial consecration prayers? During the last century the world received (at least) three extraordinary heavenly interventions by the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts toward the fulfillment of Pope Leo’s prayer:

1. Our Lady of Fatima appeared in 1917 calling for prayer, especially the rosary, sacrifices and the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. She prophesied, “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph”. In 1984, Pope John Paul II consecrated the whole world to the Immaculate Heart. (10)
2. Jesus appeared to Sister Faustina starting in 1931 with the rays from his heart exposed and revealed the incredible mercy of His Sacred Heart. Cardinal Karol Wojtyla expedited Vatican approval of these messages and as Pope he elevated Sister Faustina to sainthood and established the Feast of Divine Mercy which we will celebrate this Sunday. (11)
3. The Sacred and Immaculate Hearts are appearing today to a grandmother in Ohio. Starting in 1985 they have been teaching this visionary how to live the Consecration to the United Hearts and how to evangelize all peoples and all nations with this devotion. Many clergy, including an archbishop, have found these messages fully consistent with Catholic faith and morals but the local bishop has not approved them. Nevertheless, Canon Law allows Catholics to study and discern the messages and the local bishop has not forbidden it. (12, 13, 14) The rest of this paper will focus on this last series of apparitions and demonstrate how well they fulfil the prayers of our Popes over the last century as well as the call by Pope John Paul II to the New Evangelization.

3. The Mission and Messages of Holy Love

In 1985, Blessed Mother started appearing to Maureen in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1993, Jesus started to appear and by 1994 they both were appearing with their Hearts exposed. Since then they have been teaching Maureen, and the world how to live a life consecrated to the United Hearts in order to enter into the Divine Will of God by way of the two great commandments: love of God above all and love of neighbor as self. (14)

Mary has now appeared to Maureen under 10 different Marian titles including Our Lady of Fatima. With Jesus, they have brought into these visitations on different occasions God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and over 32 Catholic saints and blessed’s, including St. Faustina, Blessed John Paul II and Blessed Mother Theresa. After Jesus and Mary, St. Thomas Aquinas is the most prolific with 262 messages on living the

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virtuous life. The messages, now over 6000 of them, are addressed not only to Catholics but to all peoples and all nations and represent a global, internet based, ecumenical mission.

Consecration to the United Hearts and to the Divine Will in every present moment are the foundation. Heaven outlines a blueprint for becoming a saint, a roadmap into the deepest center of the Sacred Heart through the Chambers of the United Hearts. We have often prayed "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like thine" but how do we actually do it? The Holy Love messages teach us exactly how in exquisite detail and with authority. (15)

The Journey Through the Chambers of the United Hearts

Within these 6000 messages are about 450 which teach a soul how to enter, step by step, into the deepest part of the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Jesus says to all " If you can love God's Divine Will, you will reach the depths and the deepest Chamber of My Most Sacred Heart. I desire this for each one of you." (16) To describe the Chambers consider two saints: St. Augustine, and St. Anthony. St. Augustine defined "*Holy Love*" in the fifth century, "...there are two kinds of love. One is holy, the other is selfish. One is subject to God, the other endeavors to equal Him." (17) Our modern world has severely distorted the virtue of "Love", so Heaven wishes to correct that by calling on, once again, love's most perfect icon, a mother's love for her child.

In 2000, St. Anthony gave a brief summary of the first five steps or Chambers (see figure) (18): "Here is the way of salvation, holiness, perfection, and sanctity, simply put.

Step 1: Salvation.

Surrender to Holy Love, which is the two great commandments of love.

In this surrender the soul is taken into the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Her Heart is the spiritual refuge of all mankind and the gateway to the New Jerusalem which is the Heart of Jesus. In this surrender the soul begins to see his greatest sins and faults. Also in this Heart of Mary the soul begins to recognize the power and importance of the present moment.

Step 2: Holiness.

Entrance into the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Divine Love) through deeper surrender to love. The Soul begins to equate Holy and Divine Love with the Divine Will of God. He aspires to personal holiness by greater surrender to God's Will, which is always Holy Love in the present moment. He begins to understand that his will is directed by what he holds in his heart.

Step 3: Perfection.

The soul, now rooted in Holy and Divine Love, puts all his effort into being perfected in the virtues. He practices the virtues diligently, prays for them in his soul, and when God sees a worthy effort, He infuses the soul with these virtues.

Step 4: Sanctification.

This Chamber of Jesus' Divine Heart embraces those who have successfully conformed to the Divine Will of God. There are still two entities: the soul who continually seeks conformity and is successful in this; and the Divine Will of God.

Step 5: Union with the Divine Will.

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Few reach this inner sanctum of Our Lord's Heart. There is now only one entity. Self is no longer present. The soul is one with God and His Divine Will. This is the New Jerusalem. "

The key to entering into the first Chamber, according to Our Lord, is simply to pray" *Mary, Protectress of the Faith and Refuge of Holy Love, come to my aid.*" (19) The childlike humility called for in asking for her heart and her correction is the act of dying to self required to receive new Divine life in Christ. A two minute-per-day, online calendar in English and Spanish (unitedheartsdailycalendar.com) is available free for those who wish to meditate on each of the 450 readings daily. (20)



Chambers of the United Hearts

4. Holy Love Messages and The New Evangelization

How do the Holy Love Messages apply to the New Evangelization? In 1983 John Paul II, addressing the bishops of Latin America, called for a commitment, "not to re-evangelize but to a New Evangelization, new in its ardor, methods and expression."(22) In 2003 Jesus stated in the Holy Love messages: "I have come to call all humanity into a new evangelization of transforming love." (21) The messages of Holy Love follow and fulfill this commitment called for by Pope John Paul II.

A. **New Expression**-The Messages of Holy Love are themselves a new modern expression of the authentic Gospel message articulated for all peoples, all religions and all nations. A majority, 52 %, of the messages are from Jesus, the Word of God. Within these messages the reader is evangelized and catechized anew into the beauty of the first and second great commandments of love, the essentials of salvation, and practical instructions on living a life of virtue in the Divine Will. It is fully a new expression, but it is not a new Gospel. Our Catechism teaches that Jesus' new commandment of love summarizes all the others and expresses His entire will. (23)

B. **New Ardor**- The step by step roadmap into the Sacred Heart taught in beautiful detail within the Holy Love Messages calls each soul to progress deeper and deeper into the United Hearts. From deep within the Heart of Jesus, we receive His ardor, his fire, for all peoples empowering us to energize any apostolate to which we belong. Pope Benedict XVI indicated that the New Evangelization is not a single formula meant for all circumstances; first and foremost, it is a personal "...profound experience

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of God". (3) This author can testify that this journey into the Chambers of the United Hearts does indeed provide that profound experience of Our Lord's fire in the Holy Spirit.

C. **New Methods**- Heaven has assigned this third element for us to do ourselves by all number of ways. Mary has said: "It is your responsibility... to make it known by means of all the technology God has given you... It is the way and the means of sanctification." (24) Jesus has said "Make this Known" after more than 700 of His messages.

Pope Benedict XVI, in describing the New Evangelization, referred to the "Courtyard of the Gentiles" (25), that public square just outside the temple in Jesus' time where peoples from all parts of the world would gather and chat. Is this not the perfect image of the World Wide Web? Since many Millennials are not attending church, it is clear we need to meet them, not only in their homes, but also their workplaces, and any points in between via the web. (2) Let us summarize a variety of electronic means that have been used to date in spreading these Messages of Holy Love the around the world.

5. Internet Strategy: "Making this Known"

We are responsible for "Methods", let's briefly discuss three websites:

A. Holy Love Ministry: (www.holylove.org)

- 6000 Messages (1993-present) have been translated into 15 languages and made public on five language websites. (English, Spanish, Korean, Polish, French)
- Recent messages made available via audio files to be heard hands-free.
- E-mail updates sent 5-6 days per week of new messages and ministry activities. (For example, Jesus has pre-announced His appearance to Maureen this Sunday afternoon on the feast of Divine Mercy. Many come and many graces are given)
- Keyword searchable database for research purposes. (An excellent way to understand Heaven's teaching and orthodoxy on many theological and social issues)
- An 115 acre Elyria, Ohio pilgrimage shrine with bookstore for pilgrims to come and pray. (Heaven encourages people of all nations to come and pray; many graces are given.)
- Production, distribution and promotion of a new miraculous "Rosary of the Unborn" given to the world by Mary and Jesus to end abortion. Each bead prayed saves a child from abortion. (27,28)
- Formation of an International and Ecumenical Confraternity of the United Hearts by the late Archbishop Ganaka, to encourage living the message in daily life and making them known. The members gather together in small faith communities for prayer and support. A free brochure of their prayer life is online. (15)

B. Author's Day Calendar: (unitedheartsdailycalendar.com)

- A one-message-per-day calendar in Spanish and English to focus specifically on the ~ 450 Holy Love messages teaching the Chambers of the United Hearts.
- Advertising of website on Google search engine ads in English and Spanish countries. (3500 clicks per month over 4.5 years)
- Public Presentations offered in Houston area, presentation slides available online.
- Online You-Tube teaching video's produced in English and Spanish.

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C. Marians of the Immaculate Conception: (allheartsafire.org)

- Our Lord said: "My child, please understand that My goal is to win souls over to this spiritual journey. It does not concern Me what label, or if any label, is placed upon peoples response to the call to personal holiness"... (28)
The Marians may not have ever heard of Holy Love Messages, but they are doing exactly what Heaven is asking in their ministry, they are a great example for us to present here.
Fr. Michael Gaitley's two do-it-yourself retreat /DVD programs are an excellent model for making Marian and Sacred Heart Consecration a foundation for New Evangelization within parishes.
- Marian Consecration (*33 Days to Morning Glory*) 1.8MM books sold /2 yrs.
- Sacred Heart Consecration (*Consoling the Heart of Jesus*)
- Creative Apps "Mary"-62,000 to date and "Divine Mercy"-155,000 to date. About 68% of adults connect to the internet with mobile devices. (2)

In Summary, many are "making it known" around the world yet Our Lord is repeatedly asking for more. It is estimated there are 100 Million unchurched in the US and 1.1 B worldwide. (26,37) A greater need, however, is for souls to study and to "Become the message". "The kingdom of God is at hand, repent, and believe in the good news...Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men"-Mk 1:15-17.

6. How do we "Become the Message"?

In addition to frequent reception of the Sacraments, adoration and daily Rosary, the path this author uses is threefold: Study the messages daily, pray the messages daily, and live the messages daily.

In the words of Jesus to Maureen "The first step of evangelization is to become the Message. Bring life to the Message through your everyday activity. Thus, by example alone you are preaching. Next, evangelize by prayer. I did this often throughout My public ministry asking the Father for His help in touching and convicting many hearts." (29)

Prayer is vital to living a consecrated life and so Heaven has graciously provided a superabundance of brief prayers scattered within the messages. These prayers have been collected into a *United Hearts Book of Prayers and Meditations* (30)

One word of caution though, this is a lifetime journey. Jesus said in the messages "If this journey appears easy to you who hear of it, this means you have not attempted it. Take the journey with My angels. I am waiting." (31)

7. No One-World Religion

According to the Holy Love messages, it is not God's will to establish a one-world religion (32). Heaven is offering a blueprint for various peoples and faiths to use to enter into the Divine Will of the Father. Blessed Mother says: "Every one of my apparitions and every true apostolate have carried with it the aim of living in the Divine Will. This is the ultimate underlying call and goal. The Chambers of the United Hearts is the master plan - the blueprint for every soul, every apostolate to follow. It is not that any one of these I mention would lose their identity, but that they would find their way. It is a simple message given in a simple way. The Confraternity is but a vehicle of putting the road map - the blueprint - into peoples' hands, not to be swallowed up by it, but to be led by it. The Confraternity calls all people and all nations into Our United Hearts." (33)

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8. St. Margaret Mary and Holy Love

In the 1600's, St. Margaret Mary, wrote: "*O most Sacred Heart of Jesus, you desire so ardently to shower your favors upon the unfortunate, and to teach those who want to advance in the school of your love...O Jesus permit me to enter your heart as I would a school. In this school teach me the science of the saints, the science of pure love.*" The Messages of Holy Love seem to be the answer to this prayer, it is a school where one can learn the science of pure love, both Holy and Divine Love. Jesus' teaching on the Chambers to Maureen started on the Feast Day of St. Margaret Mary, Oct. 16, 1999. (34)

Providentially, In June, 1999, earlier that same year, Pope John Paul II invoked Mary, "...we call upon the help of the Blessed Virgin, Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church. May she guide the People of God across the threshold of the new millennium soon to begin. May she enlighten them on the ways of faith, hope and love! In particular, may she help every Christian to live with generous consistency the consecration to Christ which has its basis in the Sacrament of Baptism and is fittingly confirmed in personal consecration to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in whom alone humanity can find forgiveness and salvation." I therefore invite all the faithful fervently to continue their devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, adapting it to our time, so that they may never cease to draw on its unfathomable riches..."(35)

9. Conclusion

If we look at the incredible growth trend of the World Wide web over the last 25 years, we see that Millennials are seeking their information and guidance directly from the internet, not from institutions such as the Church. Over the last century the Popes have consecrated themselves and the world repeatedly to the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts. I believe the Holy Love ecumenical evangelization mission is one of Heaven's responses to the prayers of our Popes and the needs of this generation for a "New Evangelization" based on the truth of the Gospel. Jesus has provided us a new expression of the Gospel so that all peoples of all nations will receive new ardor from His Sacred Heart. Now we must follow Christ to bring on many new methods of sharing the Gospel by making this known.

In summary, Heaven is evangelizing the entire world--all nations and all peoples--with the beauty, wisdom and truth of the Catholic Faith, from right here in our country, in our midst! By entering into the United Hearts step by step through the Chambers we enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, so we can then proclaim it.

Pope Francis said in 2013: "We might think we should work out programs of evangelization carefully, thinking of strategies and making plans, but these are only tools, small tools. What matters is Jesus and letting ourselves be led by him."(36)

We must not miss the hour of our visitation! Let us follow Jesus' call to "become the message" and "make this known".

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