

THE CHURCH'S MANDATE TO USE THE MEDIA TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL

BY FR. JOHN CORAPI, SOLT, STD

The Catholic Church, through some of her most important contemporary documents, has mandated the use of the media, or "means of social communication" to spread the Gospel and teach the Faith.

On of the Second Vatican Council's sixteen major documents, Inter Mirifica, 4 December, 1963, states:

Man's genius has with God's help produced marvelous technical inventions from creation, especially in our times. The Church, our mother, is particularly interested in those which directly touch man's spirit and which have opened up new avenues of easy communication of all kinds of news, of ideas and orientations. Chief among them are those means of communication which of their nature can reach and influence not merely single individuals but the very masses and even the whole of human society. These are the press, the cinema, radio, television, and others of a like nature [the internet]. These can rightly be called "the means of social communication."

The pastoral instruction that the Second Vatican Council mandated be written, Communio et Progressio, 29 January, 1971, says this:

126. Christ commanded the apostles and their successors to "teach all nations," (Mt. 28:19) to be the "light of the world," (Mt. 5:14) and to announce the Good News in all places and all times. During his life on earth, Christ showed himself to be the perfect Communicator, while the Apostles used what means of social communication were available at their time. It is now necessary that the same message be carried by the means of social communication that are available today. Indeed, it would be difficult to suggest that Christ's command was being obeyed unless all the opportunities offered by the modern media to extend to vast numbers of people the announcement of his Good News were being used. Therefore the Second Vatican Council invited the People of God "to use effectively and at once the means of social communication zealously availing themselves of them for apostolic purposes" (Inter mirifica, no. 13).

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From the beginning of my ministry, my superiors have understood this mandate of the Church very well, and have charged me with the mission of teaching and preaching our Catholic Faith primarily through these means of social communication. We have done so from the outset, making use of television, radio, the internet, books, and tape and disk media (DVDs, CDs, etc.) to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

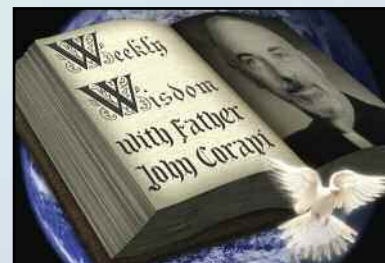
Santa Cruz Media, Inc., Flathead Media, LLC, and all of the people involved in helping to produce, manufacture, and distribute my copyrighted material have worked very hard to make this mandate of the Church a daily reality in our lives and work.

We have recently acquired a new production, manufacture, and distribution center that will facilitate our mission even more. It will contain a state of the art television and radio recording studio, from which we can broadcast, even live via satellite uplink, the best and most reliable programs so that you might learn the Faith all the more. Remembering that the study of our Catholic religion is a study of Jesus Christ himself, as we come to know him better, it is our prayer that we love him more wholeheartedly, serve him more unreservedly, and ultimately live with him in the Father's Kingdom for all eternity.

**God bless you,
Fr. John Corapi, SOLT, STD**

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