The Catholic Church in a Digital World

*Insights, Opportunities and Challenges*
Church – Roman Catholic

- Rome – centre of unity and governance
- Catholic – local communities
- Communication – mission of proclamation
- Message of Jesus – Word made flesh
- God’s love for all
- Invitation to be people of love
Promote use of means of social communication ...

- In the life of the Church – promote Gospel
- For the good of human society – development, justice and solidarity
Insights

Articulated in Pope’s Messages for World Communications Day 2009/2010
Revolution in ICTs

- Technical
- Cultural
- John Paul II
Positive Evaluation of New Media

- Risks acknowledged
- Communication, knowledge, learning, understanding, accessibility
Desire that all can share

- Digital Divide - global
- Access - social issues
Dialogue

- Understanding
- Difference
- Culture
- Global Forum (risk of polarization)
- Soul to the Web
Respect

- Content
- Human dignity
- Threats - hatred, exploitation, manipulation
- Consumers and generators
- Caution - exhibitionism
Digital Continent

- Church must be present
- Evangelization
- Inculturation
- Digital Natives
- Priests
Opportunities

Points of Insertion
Forum

- Access, outreach
- Directness – blogging, podcasts, social networks
Connectedness / Friendship

- Truth and human nature
- Point of engagement
- Ethic
Networks

- Church’s self-understanding
- Hubs
Global - Local

• “Glocal”
• Communion (unity in diversity)
Challenges

Cultural Fluency
Structure

• Communications – priority
• Convergence
• Receptivity, Evaluation, Response
• Interactivity (Web 2.0)
Language

- Visual (text)
- Impact
- Invitational
- Multilingual – Broadcasting and Narrowcasting - Porous
- First and Second Languages
- Risk
Democratic

- Hierarchy
- Viral – content
- Authenticity
Relativism

- Cultural issue
- Volume – contradictory
- Trust
- Correct or supplement
Entertainment

- Imagination
- Stories, images, icons
- Dominant images
Education

- Training / Formation
- Media Education
- Etiquette for blogosphere
- Family
Engagement

- Isolation
- Community / Service
Strategy

- Organic development (local → centre)
- No master plan (no gurus)
- Partnerships – Theological Specificity
- Technological Imperative
- Learn by doing (mistakes)
- Pope2You.net
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