

A New Door of Faith: Catholic Identity, Evangelization, and Renewal through Social Media

Amy Bonaccorso

In this Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI in *Porta Fidei* the new forms of communication in the digital world must be utilized for the New Evangelization. This paper explores the impact that new forms of social media have upon Catholic identity and efforts of evangelization. It critically examines the ways the internet and social media can threaten and weaken Catholic identity, and also suggests guidelines and provides examples for how these tools may also be effectively leveraged by committed Catholics to strengthen the faith of others and supplement their ties to the local Church. Conversions to the faith have already occurred with the assistance of digital forms of communication, and thus social media have the potential to contributing to the New Evangelization and the renewal of the Church.

Key Subject Words

Catholic identity, New Evangelization, social media, internet, blogging, online publication, vocation of the laity.