

**Promoting a Culture of Encounter:
Sharing our Faith in Dialogue with Contemporary Society**

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16 June 2021

A Church in Dialogue

Our aim: How to be **effectively present** i.e. how to promote dialogue.

Our audience: believers and non-believers. There are **different approaches to life**.

Our challenge: How are we to **shape a pastoral response**?

Is the church in dialogue with politicians / journalists?

The Church should be **LESS auto-referential** and MORE prone to (re-)connect.

The Church exists for the world. The **message of Christ** is universal, it is for all people.

We should **aware with life-categories** of those who are suffering / marginalisation / alienation. What about those who lack a sense of life; peripheries of suffering.

To **recognise what is good in the world**. How to engage with hope and have a sense of finding what is positive.

Pilgrim Church

Listening and engaging how our sisters and brothers are.

Traveling in solidarity.

Church is not just the institution, the clergy, but the **Church of the baptised**.

A new culture. A relationship in how we do our communication.

Which type of language. What can we discover of human nature?

Digital engagement

Digitalisation is NOT about new communication. Passions of belonging. The sense of identity. The faces we spend time with.

Communicate **to inform and to relate**. The social media world.

Narrowcast or broadcast – to find a second language.

Due attention should be given to the **Language and the vocabulary** used.

Understanding the **concerns and priorities**.

Digital media – People are looking for **something more stimulating**. People want to share.

Being faith into the dialogue

Man and His Problems in the Light of Jesus Christ (Rene Latourelle)

What are the **existential concerns** of people today?

Old slogan – Jesus is the answer, but **what is the question**.

Attentiveness to culture, help us get in touch with people's hearts and thoughts.

Connectivity

Risk of engagement of the social media. Relating to people becomes an obstruction. Addiction to social media.

When **speak about friendship**, we are speak about people's lives.

Vulnerable and open to grace. The nature of friendship.

Yearning for connectivity.

God satisfies our expectations of friendship / relationship.

Pope Francis

If my faith is genuine important to me, then I would share it.

To encounter people as **beings touched by God**. We are touched by God.

Information

People are trained for a **digital world** (e.g. Alexa, Siri etc.)

People want '**reliable**' and **quick answers**. Postmodern environment.

Christ is the one who provides / gives / is truth.

How can we engage with people's questions? ... Share their concern / provide an answer.

How can we teach **children to critically reflect?**

Postmodernism = There are **NO MORE big answers to big questions** anymore

Truth

Dialoguing with people at table.

Seeking Consensus. Only then can we reach truth.

It is **higher to our dialogue.**

Searching for truth is a **search for guidance.**

Method is always the same: People look up to **points of reference.**

How are we to **engage in public debates?** We need to be clear that we are not just another lobby group. Show the Christian position.

How are we to regain trust? By reform. By making ourselves better.

Trustworthy. Life-giving.

People do not get the same result ... Algorithms work according to the individual.

Pope Francis – a culture of encounter. **Learn from other people.**

Are we open to others? Their thoughts, life, experience ...

Share

Al voluntary activity. Sharing knowledge. People create software.

Passion and enthusiasm.

Risk: **narcissism or performance.**

The Church as **field hospital.** "Love one another as I have loved you."

How do we reach people who are looking for that more?

Wake people up to use current language. Hashtags. Injustices that are there.

Environmental issues ...