Duc in altum!  Part I

International Catholic Deaf Association Conference 2010:
“You and I, Builders of God’s Kingdom!”
13-18 July 2010
God our Father,
You will that all [people] to be saved
And come to the knowledge of the Truth.
Send workers into Your great harvest
that the Gospel may be preached
to every creature
and Your people, gathered together
by the Word of Life,
and strengthened by the power of the Sacraments,
may advance in the way of salvation and love.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Masses for Various Needs and Occasions,
“For the Evangelization of Peoples,”
From the Roman Missal, no. 519
The Deaf Mission-Field in Canada

Catholics
■ There are 129,000 *Deaf Catholics* in Canada
■ Of 16 ICDA-Canada chapters, 7 are dormant/inactive
■ There are 517,000 *Hard-of-Hearing Catholics* in Canada
■ The CCCB/CECC has *no* department for Deaf/disabled ministry
■ Only *four* priests celebrate the liturgy in ASL in Canada
■ Only *six* religious work with the Deaf in Canada

Non-Catholics
■ 173,600 Deaf Canadians are unchurched
■ 1,568,000 Hard-of-Hearing Canadians are unchurched
How Should We Respond?

- Very few Deaf Catholics are active in the faith;
- Many Deaf Catholics have lapsed or apostasized;
- Even more Deaf non-Catholics know nothing about God;
- Lack of faith leads to either atheism or superstition;
- This reflects the growing secularist crisis in Europe.

According to the late Pope John Paul II and the incumbent Pope Benedict XVI, there is one response to this crisis:

The New Evangelization
What is Evangelization?

From the Greek noun εὐαγγελίον (euaggelion) meaning ‘glad tidings,’ ‘good news,’ ‘joyful announcement,’ usually translated as ‘Gospel’:  *eu* [= ‘good’] + *aggelion* [= ‘message’]

Evangel(ion) = the “Good News” or the Gospel
Evangelism = the action of *proclaiming* the Gospel
Evangelical = of or related to the Gospel
Evangelist = (1) an author of one of the four gospels; (2) one who proclaims the Gospel

The Gospel has in view the coming of God’s Kingdom: “Jesus went about all Galilee, preaching the *Gospel of the Kingdom*” (Mt 4:24).

This is tied to ICDA/Canada Section’s theme for 2010: “You and I, Builders of God’s Kingdom.”
The “Chain Reaction” of Evangelism

“For, ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

But how are they to call on one in Whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one Whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim them? And how are they to proclaim Him unless they are sent?”

—St Paul the Apostle, 
Epistle to the Romans 10:13-15

1. Sent The Apostolate
2. Proclaim Evangelism
3. Receive Exposure
4. Believe Act of Faith
5. Invocation Friendship with God
But...

Who is *Sent* to Evangelize?

Whose Responsibility is it to Evangelize?
The “Apostolate of Evangelization of Souls” in the Church’s Tradition

The “duty of the apostolate” is expressed in the Church’s Tradition:

- It is found in the First and Third Spiritual Work of Mercy: “To instruct the ignorant” and “to admonish sinners.”

- It is found in the Seventh Precept of the Church: “To participate in the Church’s mission of evangelization of souls.”

- It is found in the teachings of the Magisterium, especially the Second Vatican Council’s “Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity” and the “Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church.”
A Methodological Mistake

The Ideal:

1. Evangelization
2. Catechesis
3. Mystagogy
A Methodological Mistake

The Reality:

1. Catechesis

∅
“As members of the living Christ, incorporated into Him and made like Him in baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist, all the faithful have an obligation in the expansion and spread of the Body...

...Lay people should cooperate in the Church’s work of evangelization and share in its saving mission both as witnesses and living instruments...”

—Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church, Ad gentes
Session IV, 7 December 1965
The Duty of the Apostolate

“Lay people, whose particular vocation places them in the midst of the world and in charge of the most varied temporal tasks, must for this very reason exercise a very special form of evangelization.”

—H.H. Pope +Paul VI,
Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii nuntiandi*
8 December 1975
The Duty of the Apostolate

“The need for all the faithful to share in this responsibility is not merely a matter of making the apostolate more effective, it is a right and duty based on their baptismal dignity... Therefore, ‘they are bound by the general obligation and they have the right, whether as individuals or in associations, to strive so that the divine message of salvation may be known and accepted by all people throughout the world. This obligation is all the more insistent in circumstances in which only through them are people able to hear the Gospel and to know Christ.”

—H.H. Pope +John Paul II, Redemptoris missio, 7 December 1990
The Duty of the Apostolate

“Everyone needs the Gospel; the Gospel is destined to all and not only a specific circle and this is why we are obliged to look for new ways of bringing the Gospel to all.”

—H.H. Pope +Benedict XVI
The Problem is Twofold

- The 3 steps of Christian formation has been reduced to only 1 step; *evangelization*, which is the foundation of catechesis, is often *missing*.

- Many lay people are *unaware* of the “duty of the Apostolate” and that the Church *requires* of them a share in the mission of the “evangelization of souls.”
What We Will Learn Tomorrow:

- What is the “Evangelical Moment”?
- What is the “Means of Evangelism”? How can I evangelize?
- What are the basic *attitudes* of the “Evangelical Moment”?
- What is “Anti-Evangelism”?
- What is *the* “Evangel” or the “Gospel”?
- Finally, what does «Duc in altum!» mean?
An examination of conscience:

- In our lives, do we pray for deeper intimacy with God, reflect on the Scriptures, and obey the Commandments of God and the Church? Do we pray for our own *continued* conversion?
- Do our lives “obviate” or “obfuscate” Christ?
- When we encounter an “evangelical moment,” do we share the Good News of God’s love and invite our conversation-partners to respond with an “Act of Faith”?
- Do our liturgies beautifully proclaim our faith and welcome the stranger?
- Do we celebrate the “Mass for Various Needs and Occasions: For the Evangelization of Peoples” from the *Roman Missal* and pray for the conversion of the world?
Duc in altum!  Part II

International Catholic Deaf Association Conference 2010:
“You and I, Builders of God’s Kingdom!”
13-18 July 2010
Recap from Previous Session

- There is a *crisis of faith* among Deaf people in Canada: many do not receive the sacraments; even more know nothing about Christ and His Gospel.

- The response to this *crisis of faith* is *evangelization*. The Church’s supreme authority has imposed the duty of the apostolate on all Christians—the laity no less than clerics and religious.

- The way we do ‘religious education’ has been to let catechesis ‘float’ without the *foundation of evangelism*. This adds to the “crisis of faith.”

- How effective have we been in our *witness* to Christ? Does our behaviour ‘obviate’ or ‘obfuscate’ Christ?
How Does Evangelism Work?

**Holy Spirit**
Only the Holy Spirit ‘moves’ people to evangelism and conversion.

**Evangelical Moment**
Invites the seeker to respond to God’s desire for friendship.

**Church**
The community of Christ’s followers celebrates the Sacraments of Initiation.
The ‘Evangelical Moment’

- The ‘evangelical moment’ is that *opportunity* to inform our dialogue-partner about of the Gospel.

- The basic attitude leading up to the ‘evangelical moment’ is *readiness*: We must be properly disposed by—
  1. Our friendship with God (prayer, ongoing conversion, and the sacraments);
  2. Our ‘attunement’ to the dialogue-partner’s thoughts and feelings;
  3. And total respect for the dialogue-partner’s freedom to respond to the Gospel.

- The ‘destination’ of the ‘evangelical moment’ is the Act of Faith and the bridge towards communion with the Church.
Basic Attitudes of the ‘Evangelical Moment’

- **Readiness**  St Peter tells us to “be ready to give an account of the hope that is in you.” Be on the lookout to plant a seed of faith.

- **Personal Conversion**  Always remember that we need an ongoing conversion before we insist on others’ conversion. Humility—repentance—Friendship with God.

- **Respect for Freedom**  The Church has authoritatively taught ‘religious liberty’ (Pope Leo XIII; Vatican Council II). Christ wants free men and women to be His followers.

- **Charity**  Our desire to evangelize springs from our charity toward God and charity toward people created in God’s image and likeness. “We love, because God first loved us”; being seized by God’s love is the source of evangelical zeal.
The Means of Evangelism

- Prayer for conversion: *my* conversion, then others’
- Presence, availability: “Here I am, Lord; here I am, friend!”
- Friendship
- Witness of a life of grace and virtue: “Don’t wear the cross; *be* the Cross!”
- “Holy jealousy”
- Smile!
- Displays of Christian sentiment

Finally, when you are asked, “What must I do to be saved?” —
- Explain the Gospel in 4 steps!
“Anti-Evangelism”: Depriving the Gospel

- Only “mission ad intra’
- Catechesis without evangelism! *Didache* without *kerygma*!
- Waiting for *them* to come to *us*
- Lack of kindness to the stranger
- Referral
- Hypocrisy
- “Lord, save me from sullen saints” (St Theresa of Ávila)
- Refusing to witness; *fear*
- Displays of Anti-Christian sentiment

In what other ways do we ‘hinder’ the spread of the Gospel or contribute to anti-Evangelism?
So...

We know what *Evangelism* means...

But what is the *Evangel*?
What is the Gospel?
What is the “Good News”?

What ‘points’ do I make when I am evangelizing?
What is the Gospel?

1. God created us “to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.”
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3. Christ, the God-Man, bridged the immense gap between the infinite God and finite humanity; through the Church we have been “rehabilitated” for eternal happiness. In the Church we find salvation.

4. From baptism to the Last Judgment, we grow in holiness and in readiness to meet the “Judge of the living and the dead.”
St Rene Goupil, Our Role-Model of an Evangelist

- Jesuit lay-brother
- Impaired hearing; a close friend of St Isaac Jogues
- Missionary among the Huron Indians; surgeon from France
- Was killed for making the sign of the Cross over a Native child
- First martyr in North America
- Canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1930
- He is buried at “The Ravine” on the grounds of the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, NY
Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “**PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP** water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.
What does «Duc in altum» mean?

“Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

«Duc in altum et laxate retia vestra in capturam»

- *Duc in altum* refers to the “deepness” of conversion and new life found in Christ and the *abundance* of the mission-field;
- The Lord exhorts us to have *courage* to “put out into the deep” and to win souls.
- The story of *Luke* 5:1-11 is a lesson about the apostolate of the evangelization of souls.
v 1 “the crowd was pressing on Him to hear the Word of God”

v 3 “He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon. ...Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat”

v 4 “He said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch”

- Many people came to hear the preaching of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus specifically chooses Simon’s boat to teach His lesson. He also preaches to the crowd from within the boat of Simon.
- Even though Simon had been working all night, in obedience to Jesus, he complies and moves his boat.
v 5 “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.”

Peter first objects to Jesus, then obeys Him. Peter does not take initiative, but Jesus does.

v 6 “When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.”

Obedience to Jesus is *always fruitful*, there are always results.

v 8 “But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’”

The narrator changes “Simon” to “Simon Peter”; he is overcome by his sinfulness and wishes to excuse the Lord.
“Duc in altum!”

v 10c “Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid...’”

v 10c “...from now on on you will be catching people”

v 11 “When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Him.”

- Be not afraid! Why do we need to fear?
- Jesus *elevates* Peter’s vocation as the fisherman; he will now be “Catching people” for the Kingdom of God.
- To be in the Lord’s service is now the only life of the Apostles: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John.
Remember *Duc in altum* Park?

World Youth Day 2002, Toronto
Remember "De Colores"?

Joyfully, joyfully we will live in God's friendship because He has willed it!

Faithfully, faithfully we will slake the great thirsting of Christ the immortal.

Joyfully, joyfully we will bring to our Savior a harvest of souls pouring outward the light from within the grace of our God His infinite Life.

Missionaries, missionaries of Christ with His courage determined to conquer.

Cursillistas, cursillistas who don't pay attention to human opinion.

Let the cowards, let the cowards deride us and taunt us but it is the truth that they really desire the pleasure of being in grace, in colors with us.
Act of Faith

O my God,
Who are infallible Truth and can neither deceive nor be deceived;
I firmly believe all that You have revealed and propose to my belief through Your holy Church, because You have revealed it.
I believe that You are one in Nature and three in Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
I believe that You are the Creator of all things and that you reward the just for all eternity in heaven and punish the wicked for all eternity in hell.
I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God made Man, that He suffered and died for my sins and rose from the dead in glory, and that it is only in Him through the Holy Spirit that eternal life is given to people.
I believe in fine all that Your holy Church believes
I thank You for having called me to the true Faith, and I protest that with the help of Your grace, I will live and die in this holy Faith. Amen.

(Enchiridion of Indulgences)
Precepts/Commandments of the Church

1. Assist at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation, doing no unnecessary work on those days;
2. Confess serious sins at least once a year;
3. Receive Holy Communion as often as possible, at least once a year during Paschal Tide;
4. Fast and abstain at appointed times;
5. Contribute to the support of the Church;
6. Observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage and to give religious training to one’s children by word, example, and the use of parish schools or classes;
7. Participate in the Church’s mission of the evangelization of souls.
# Works of Mercy

**Corporeal Works of Mercy**

1. Feed the hungry  
2. Give drink to the thirsty  
3. Clothe the naked  
4. Visit and ransom prisoners  
5. Shelter the homeless  
6. Visit the sick  
7. Bury the dead

**Spiritual Works of Mercy**

1. Instruct the ignorant  
2. Counsel the doubtful  
3. Admonish sinners  
4. Bear wrongs patiently  
5. Forgive offences willingly  
6. Comfort the afflicted  
7. Pray for the living and dead