

# Quotes From Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J. On The Media

## ***Modern Media:***

The Second Vatican Council identified these media as the press, the cinema, radio, television, and other of like nature. Rightly called the **means of social communications**.

## ***Compelling Power:***

The Church knows that these media “can have such compelling power that people, especially if they are not prepared, may scarcely be able to recognize it or control it or when necessary, to reject it”.

## ***Most Neglected:***

Only the Lord knows why the document on social communication, *Inter Mirifica*, has been the most neglected of the sixteen documents of the Second Vatican Council.

## ***Dishonest Attacks:***

Because of the unceasing ferocious, dishonest attacks against the Catholic Church and its teaching, Catholics must enter the media on all levels.

## ***Wake Up:***

Catholics have to wake up to their grave responsibility in the modern world. They must be aroused from their sleep, their lethargy, in allowing the media to be mainly untapped for the extension of Christ’s Kingdom in our day.

## ***Change:***

From Pope Paul VI to Pope John Paul II, the popes have wanted Catholics to change that (to): “The modern media are engaged in a Christlike, shall I use the word, conspiracy, for the truth.”

## ***Reform:***

The Holy See requested that more good Catholics become involved and reform the media.

## ***Truth:***

We define “truth” as conformity of the mind with reality. Must we not say that the evil spirit is demonically successful in deceiving whole nations by filling their minds with lies!

## ***Feelings: Faith, Truth verses Feelings:***

To let people think that the faith is only a means of feelings is lethal. Yes, deadly.

## ***Indifferent:***

You may not be indifferent with the truth.

## ***Speak:***

Speak out when the time is right. Do not hide your wisdom, for speech makes wisdom known, and all that a man has learned appears in his words.

## ***Right:***

One loses one’s right to communicate if one does not tell the truth.

## ***Others:***

Before dealing with others, spend time in silence with God.

## ***The Needs of the Church:***

There is nothing that the Catholic Church in our nation needs more than a deeper and clearer understanding of the Catholic Faith. Nothing less than the survival of the Catholic Church in our country is at stake. I am deeply grateful to you – what you are doing to promote a clear understanding to the faith we profess.

## ***To Combat Heresy and Dissidence:***

1. Reflect
2. Consult
3. Pray
4. Decide. And now the matter is closed.

## ***Wrong Use:***

The Council recognizes that these media, for all their potential as channels of grace, can be used “in ways that are contrary to the Creator’s design, and damaging to man himself.”

## ***Impact:***

The devastating impact of the mass media on the Christian faith of millions – behind this influence is the simple fact, that those who control the media, in large measure, have the political and financial power of a practical monopoly.

## ***Evangelization Affected:***

Not to know how the Church's evangelization is being affected by the modern media, is not to realize that the media are part of God's universal (with stress on the universal) plan of salvation.

## ***Access to Catechesis:***

What needs to be stressed and reemphasized is that the new media have given us access to evangelization and catechesis that the modern world so desperately needs.

## ***One World Movement:***

There is talk about the new age that will reunite a dismembered world. And powerful forces alien to Christ are mobilizing in this one world movement.

## ***Unify:***

We must capitalize on this obvious need to unify a dismembered human family. There is only one effective means of doing this through propagating the Gospel of the Savior.

## ***Church's Duty:***

The Church founded by Christ has this duty, binding under the pain of sin, to exploit the modern media of communication. Contrast this with the practical absence of Catholic evangelization by the media in most countries, and we begin to see the monumental task that lies ahead.

## *InterMirifica's* Hard Conclusions

The Church has a right to use these media which, she considers necessary or even useful for the formation of Christians and for pastoral activity.

- The Church has a right to own these media.
- Bishop and priests have the duty to instruct and direct the faithful on how to use these media.
- The media are to be used for the salvation and perfection of both believing Christians and of all mankind.
- The laity have the principal responsibility to animate the media with a Christian and human spirit.