

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

TELEPHONE MEDIA TABLE EXHIBIT

The telephone committee should promote the importance of the telephone as a means of social communication and evangelization that has literally changed the world. The telephone is the basis for the best interconnectivity between an individual and the social organization mankind has developed. Man's ingenuity will continue to develop institutions and organizations to service his needs through the use of this media of communication. How do you use the telephone to evangelize? The telephone can be used for good or evil. We need to emphasize and promote the good uses of the telephone, which are actually in many cases corporal works of mercy.

POSITIVE TELEPHONE EVANGELIZATION

Have literature that explains all the positive ways phones can be used for the betterment of mankind. The use of the phone for good is endless. Whenever we use the telephone for good we are evangelizing this media.

- The telephone provides many valuable services for individuals at their fingertips.
- Telephones literally have extended the ability of people to communicate with other people beyond their immediate geographic location for information, i.e. America Needs Fatima, Divine Mercy, Respect Life, etc.
- For evangelization,
- For help to buy and sell merchandize for religious organization, i.e. World Communication Day, Adoration Chapels, etc.,
- To schedule medical appointments (our personal responsibilities),
- For caring conversation between family, friends and those in need,
- For prayer lines,

The use of the phone is endless! Father John A. Hardon, S.J. cautioned that the phone is a source of great good or evil. Father suggested never pick up the phone without a short prayer and Holy Water

SUGGESTED TABLE DISPLAY:

1. A picture of a person using the phone to promote and maintain church organizations or for prayer requests.

Suggested guidelines for a “Calling Tree”

PRAYER LINE GUIDELINES

- The prayer chain always starts at the top and works down to the bottom.
- If you reach an answering machine, leave a message, and then call the next person on the list.
- If you reach a spouse, child or other family member leave a message and call the next person on the list.
- The last person on the list will call the first person to ensure that the message has reached all and that the chain is not broken. If unable to reach her/him call the next person on the list.
- If someone in the middle of the list gets a prayer request, please call the first person so that the complete routine may be followed.
- If anyone prefers to use e-mail, please send your email address to the initial contact person. A new list will be reissued with email information.
- When contacted for prayer, it is each person's responsibility to do two things:
 - 1) **Pray for the intention requested**
 - 2) **Pass the prayer request on to the next person.**
- Please keep all prayers involving personal matters in complete confidence. If you feel compelled to include others, not on the chain, in your prayer request, keep it nonspecific. (**Example:** *Please pray for a special intention for Pat.*)
- If you would like, you can at any time link with other prayer chains for a particular need. The first person on the list will simply call the first person on their list as well, if requested.

Pope John Paul II indicated that people sometimes say they don't know how to pray. "How to pray? This is a simple matter. I would say: Pray any way you like, so long as you do pray. You can pray the way your mother taught you; you can use a prayer book. Sometimes it takes courage to pray; but it is possible to pray, and necessary to pray whether from memory or a book or just in thought. It is all the same.

Remember, there are many ways to pray:

- Formal prayers learned through the church,
- Scripture reading and meditation,
- Offering up pain and suffering with a willing heart,
- Fasting, abstaining, self-denial,
- Song,
- Listening to God in your heart,
- Meditation in nature,
- Original prayers from the heart,
- Church attendance

2. Use identifiable community service pamphlets and a list of emergency phone numbers, i.e. your local Fire, Ambulance and Police Departments in an emergency – 911.
 - a. Picture of a phone being used to call and check on the sick and elderly.
 - b. Picture of a phone being used by the sick and elderly to get help.
 - c. Picture of someone at a Crisis Intervention Service talking on a hotline phone to someone who needs help (check your local phone book for your Crisis Intervention Service number).
 - d. Picture of a young girl calling the Catholic Pregnancy hotline in her diocese.

3. Check your local Diocese for information on available services:
 - a. Disabled.
 - b. For all Catholic Education related topics
 - c. Health services.
 - d. Substance abuse.
 - e. Youth services.
 - f. Senior citizens
 - g. All types of counseling needs.

4. Show how the phone is useful as a powerful tool to promote and influence those who produce newspapers, magazines, books, radio, television and movie shows.
 - a. Positive Communication – appreciative acknowledgment for the good that they are doing to protect morality and the truths of our faith.
 - b. Negative Communication – disapproval for the breakdown of morality in their written, spoken and visual presentations.

5. A cell phone, a video cell phone, a base phone with multiple cordless headphones, an Internet phone, and a videoconference phone could be displayed on the table.

6. ***Activity at the table*** - show how the phone is used to keep the family in touch and together. Actually have children use a cell phone to say “Hello, I love you.” to a family member that they have not spoken to recently.

SUGGESTED HANDOUTS:

1. Telephone etiquette list – suggestions for how to use a phone properly. Learn/review the basic phone courtesy we should all practice as Christians when we talk to other people over the phone.

Visit: <http://library.thinkquest.org/2993/phone.htm>

2. Emergency hotline pamphlets/magnets – 911, pregnancy, suicide, aid for the elderly, etc. This type of information falls under the category of a corporal work of mercy for those who need these services but don't know how or where to get this information because they may have never needed it before. We need to be aware of how we can help one another.
3. Phone list (magnet) of current senior citizen services. A thoughtful way to evangelize our concern for the elderly.
4. Business card size booklet for important name and phone number of people we may need to call while away from home – something that can be slipped easily into the purse, pocket or wallet.