

EVANGELIZATION HOMILY: BY FATHER JOHN A HARDON, S. J. - JANUARY 3, 2000

The gospel just read tells us a great deal about our responsibility. Two thousand years after Christ died and rose from the dead; we are all to spread the Gospel. Two thousand years since Jesus rose from the dead and at most over six billion people in the world, less than one billion even nominal Christians.

Dear Lord where is our zeal? What are we doing to spread the gospel? I'm not indulging in pious rhetoric. Christ proclaimed that the gospel be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

I have been preaching for more than fifty years. Christ wants His gospel proclaimed. So what are we doing? Proclaiming the gospel? Don't be silly, yet on our zeal to proclaim the gospel depends on our salvation.

God became man died on the cross on, first Good Friday ...Why? To inspire us to spread the Gospel!

What cowards we Catholics can be. In the first 300 years the lowest figure was over one million martyrs. The only reason the Church was spread is because men, women and even children were willing to proclaim the faith. I repeat what cowards we Catholics can be. *Our salvation depends on our zeal to spread the faith.* Our salvation depends on our zeal to bring others to the Roman Catholic faith.

Dear Lord shall I say it, What cowards we Catholics can be? Unless the early Christians had been zealous to spread the true faith there would not be a Catholic Church today.

We are living in the laziest most selfish period of Catholic history. Detroit alone has lost 40 parishes. Dear Lord we're on earth only a short time. We're made for heaven. We will be saved and reach heaven ourselves, ONLY, ONLY, ONLY, ONLY, if we bring others into the Catholic faith. Close the book!

I repeat what cowards we Catholic's can be. Over the years either ...Only God knows how many of us will reach heaven. We will not reach heaven unless we do everything in our power to bring others to the Catholic faith.

Give me the voice, the sound to speak loud and clearly to everyone of you. In God's name, I plead with you - today is January 3, 2000, unless we bring at least one person in the catholic faith by this date next year we will not reach heaven.

Dear Lord how preoccupied we can be with this world to share the faith. Dear Lord give us the zeal and courage to share our Catholic faith with everyone who enters our life.

Lord Jesus, we beg you give us the zeal and courage with everyone whose life we touch, because I repeat *our salvation depends on our zeal to share our faith with everyone whose life we touch.*

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