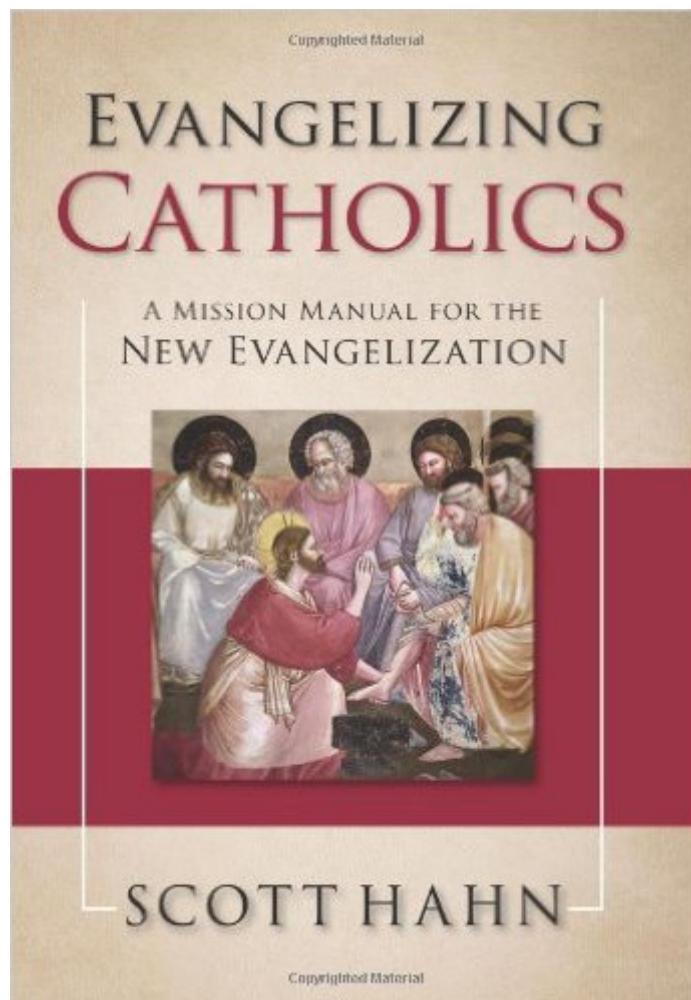


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Evangelizing Catholics: A Mission Manual For The New Evangelization



Synopsis

You can't keep the faith unless you give it away.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's awkward to give one of your heroes 4/5 stars, but here is my take: Scott Hahn is a champion of scripture, apologetics, and is a wonderful and gifted communicator of the faith. Each successive book he writes is a successive lift for the Body of Christ. He played a significant role in my own conversion, when he earned my trust with his open and honest Rome Sweet Home, making me feel free to explore more of the Catholic faith with a sense of curiosity and confidence. I read many of his works early on, was soon converted to the Catholic Church, and have since enjoyed much of his books and other work including radio, articles, etc. That said, I was anticipating this book for a few months before its release. It was certainly a satisfying read. The book opens up with a detailed look at the history of the New Evangelization, in such detail that I have not read before. It then points to the need for a renewed vigor for the faith, and sharing of the faith, the New Evangelization. He points out the never too much emphasized fact that evangelism is a "Catholic thing". In the middle of the book, "Part II", are a few chapters dedicated to the model and methods for the New Evangelization. He discusses how previous generations evangelized and tell us that each of us is called in various ways to share our faith in our given vocation and situation. The last third of the book, "Part III", calls out the content of the New Evangelization. Following a scripturally sound model, the content contains the need to recognize sin, God's work in atonement for that sin, a life in

the Body of Christ, and being transformed but love. Overall, the book, especially the opening chapters, chapters 8 and 9 on the work in a Christian family and the Lay Apostolate, were very good.

The New Evangelization is the latest buzz phrase in the Catholic world. Everyone is using it, and it seems like there's always a new Catholic book being written on the subject. Ralph Martin addresses the subject in *The Urgency of the New Evangelization: Answering the Call*, and Cardinal Wuerl also had his say in his book *New Evangelization: Passing on the Catholic Faith Today*. In one of his latest books, *Evangelizing Catholics*, Dr. Scott Hahn has decided to weigh in on the matter as well. The book is divided into three parts - The Call, The Response, and The Message. Part I - The Call goes into detail on what the New Evangelization is, including what it is; where/when it started and how it's grown; how it is a Catholic reality; and how it is a mission for the whole Church. If you are familiar at all with the New Evangelization most of this information won't be new to you. It was interesting to read his description of three notable byproducts (read conversions) due to the New Evangelization. These three names are Abby Johnson (former Planned Parenthood worker, Kevin James (Hollywood actor), and Francis Beckwith (former President of the Evangelical Theological Society). Each came to the Catholic Church through different means, but all were results of the New Evangelization. Part II - The Response shows different models and methods in the New Evangelization. The first two chapters in this section look at the Gospels and the Early Church for lessons. Dr. Hahn says that the "blueprint for the New Evangelization can be found in the Gospels of Matthew and John. These lessons include - 1. Proclaim a Person (Jesus), 2. Proclaim by Words and Deeds, 3. Proclaim the Church, 4. Proclaim the Fulfillment of the Covenant, and 5. Proclaim the Sacraments.

"Some of us may wish that we had embarked on it earlier, that we had learned about this mission when we were younger or when our children were younger. But there's no going back. We can't change what's past. We can only change what we do here and now. And it is never too late to say yes to this mission. It's never too late to begin the work of the New Evangelization in our marriages and homes. Whatever we give God now and in the days ahead, he will use it to bear great fruit." -- page 97 As Scott Hahn sees it we really have no choice in the matter. Christ has called each and every faithful Catholic not only to live an exemplary life but also to challenge or nudge those people in our lives who may have fallen away from the faith or perhaps do not know God at all. To be sure this New Evangelization is going to be a messy business and success is by no means guaranteed.

Prominent Catholic author, theologian and teacher Scott Hahn offers a road map outlining how ordinary lay Catholics might become engaged in this highly important work in his brand new book "Evangelizing Catholics: A Mission Manual for the New Evangelization". Given the sad state of our world the timing of this book could not be better. In "Evangelizing Catholics" Dr. Hahn points out that the overwhelming majority of faithful Catholics tend to shy away from discussing their faith not only in the public square but also on a personal level with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. We really do need to get past that. Many of our Protestant friends have no such inhibitions. Because we are so reluctant to stand up for our faith and profess what we believe in all too many of us have a difficult time expressing even the most basic tenets of our Catholic faith.

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