

HCSC VBS 2009 SESSION #1

DEFINITIONS: APOLOGETICS & EVANGELIZATION

'ON THE GOSPEL AND CULTURE'

“The split between the Gospel and the Culture is without a doubt the drama of our time.”

- Pope Paul VI, *On Evangelization in the Modern World; (Evangelii Nuntiandi)*, no. 20

TERMS

Evangelization – The proclamation of Christ and His Gospel by word and testimony of life, in fulfillment of Christ’s command (Catechism of the Catholic Church - CCC 905)

-CCC 905 states Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization “that is, proclamation of Christ word and the testimony of life.” For lay people, “this evangelization...acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in ordinary circumstances of the world.”

-CCC 120 – States It was by the apostolic Tradition that the Church discerned which writings are to be included in the list of sacred books. This complete list is called the canon of Scripture. It includes 46 books for the Old Testament (45 if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) and 27 for the New Testament.

-CCC 125 – States the Gospels are the heart of all Scriptures “because they are our principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, Our Savior.

Evangelist – One of the four authors to whom is ascribed the writing of the Gospels, i.e., Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (**CCC 125,120**). The term also is used for one who works actively to spread and promote the Christian faith.

Culture – Culture is not just an abstraction; it is the sum of the beliefs, attitudes, and practices of individuals and communities. Evangelizing a culture means dealing with people. It involves more than persuading people of the truth of Christ and the Church, Sharing the Gospel with others means offering them its transforming power, not just for our minds, but also our hearts. In our daily prayer, we need to lift up our fellow citizens and their needs to God’s loving concern for them.

