

## Mediated Media

Written by Anton R. Casta  
Thursday, 05 May 2011 00:00

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**A presentation to the Canadian Chapter of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars  
Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy  
Barry's Bay, Ontario, Canada**

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### Introduction

Thank you for this opportunity to reflect upon media and the new evangelization and hammer out a greater awareness for us as — parents, teachers, pastors, students, commentators, and thinkers.

On May 6th, 2000 I gave a little session on media and evangelization to the half dozen students

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which constituted the then entire student body of OLSWA. We spoke of the anatomy of the new media revolution, synthesis of forms, the role of Logos, and a vibrant discussion on Thomistic research on the web. And, it was held in OLSWA's biggest classroom, my living room.

### [chuckles all round]

Some things have certainly changed since that Y2K session but the nature and direction of modern media has not. Nor has the call to engage man and culture in the new media.

So what could be said in a short talk about such a broad topic? Too much really. So I thought I should begin by narrowing parameters with an appropriate title to help avoid the wild brain leaps that come from reading Dr. Sues for the past 12 years.

My possible working titles included:

- Sociologically... Migration into e-Society; Gemeinschaft to Gesellschaft to a Webschaft Wunderlust
- Historically... Internet with a Human Face; softening the "party line" of hard coding
- Biologically... Sybiosis with the great Mirror Machine, falling in love with our eco-selves
- Philosophically... Slave or Master: Reflecting on the Gnosis (platonic talent) of Web
- Or, Tron-McLuhan-esque... How a "USER" of Any Medium is the Content

Again, there was simply too much. So I settled on something broad and encompassing, "Mediated Media", so I could lightly weave in and out of various disciplines, like a needle sewing cloth together.

So tonight we're going to look at (1) the nature of media, (2) factors that impact on the new evangelization, (3) and some concrete steps Catholics and Catholic organizations can take to help amplify their role in the new evangelization through media. Sprinkled within that will be the guiding insights of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

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### **The Nature of Media**

How many of you are anti-Media?

**[Half the arms raise in the room; presenter grins]**

That begs the question, what is Media?

To answer that we have to expand our vocabulary and push English away from its syncretic dispositions of linguistic equality — I love pizza, I love you, I “like” love that!

At first, the quickest way to expand the term “media” seemed to be to think of it in terms of noun, adjective, and verb. But as parts of speech the approach fails when I began to see that Media also has a Divine form — that is simultaneously being and becoming. It also has a human form, part of which is the new digital media, or e-media.

### **// Christ Our First Media**

Our key definition, upon which everything else will pivot is this:

Media is most fundamentally an exchange of persons, the sharing of their material and immaterial culture. And, Christ is our First Media, the Logos (discourse/word/exchange), for he is the one who shows us the exchange of persons and the culture of love which exists within the life of the Holy Trinity.

### // Human Media: The Totality of Body and Soul

Likewise, we are asked to be Christ-like, little media; mediators, sharing not only of ourselves but allowing a communion with God that perfects us and elevates our exchange with others so that like leaven in bread we can through Christ transform the larger body of culture and the common weal of society. We look upward and across as little Christ-Medias. We reach out across the barbarian landscape and create inviting media spaces (virtual cathedrals) to engage the world in dialogue through beauty and truth, in what Benedict XVI calls, a new Courtyard of the Gentiles.

Media is that quality of the soul that is designed for communion, sharing, and touch. Without a media-ized soul we could not cherish story, the divine story, the eternal exchange with our creator. We could not pray.

#### **Nota Bene:**

**Man is also media to himself insofar as he represents his actualized personhood imperfectly. On a Christian level, we can comment further — man as the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit, “represents” or “mediates” his charge, his divine potential, imperfectly. Christians can speak of man as image (living art), or word (living literature), or as man as media — in terms of dialogue within the universal call to evangelization and the renewed call to engage in that dialogue in the “new” media. For Pope John Paul II, the term “new” here denotes the application of the unchanging Gospel message into the world of new media.**

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telnet - grind.isca.uiowa.edu default<0>
File Edit Setup Help
[Connected]
DOC (Dave's Own version of Citadel) Version 1.7
Welcome to the ISCA BBS.

Login as 'Guest' to just look around, or 'New' to create a new account.
Name: INFO MAG
Password: .....

Iowa Student Computer Association BBS.
Last on: 1/24/96 9:46 until 9:49 from grind.isca.uiowa.edu
This is call 1287. There are 783 users.

Lobby> Jump to forum name/number? -> Card
[Strategy Card Games] 158 messages, 92 new

Strategy Card Games> Read New

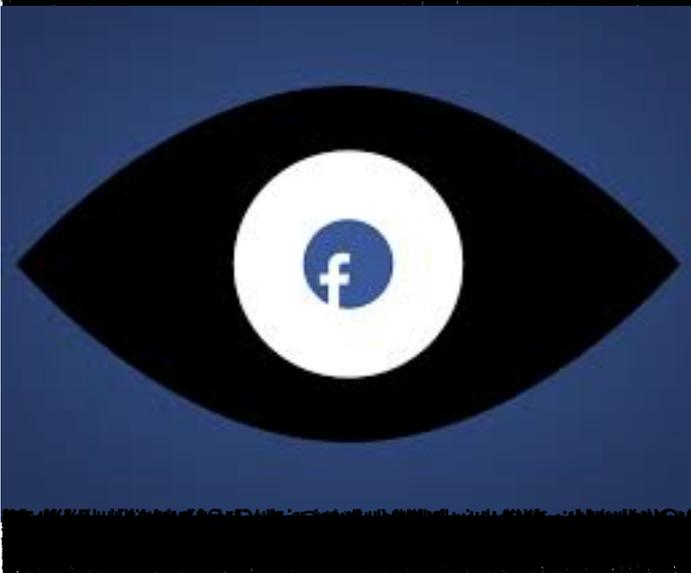
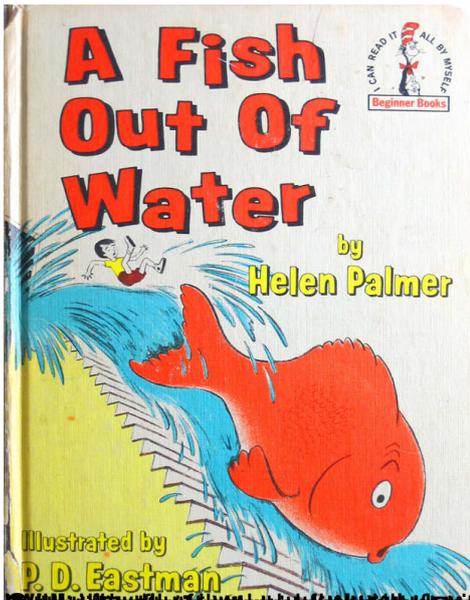
Jan 22, 1996 16:42 from Talis Allblood
Ali Baba> Actually there's nothing wrong with Ali Baba, for a 1/1 that only
costs one mana to bring out. Unless I was making a creature-theme deck, I'd
choose Ali Baba over Dwarven Traders or Goblin Raiders who have no special
ability.
Besides, everyone here just loves to start chanting ALI BABA AND THE FORTY
THEIVES!!! whenever they bring him out.
[Strategy Card Games> msg #26943 (91 remaining)] Read cmd -> |
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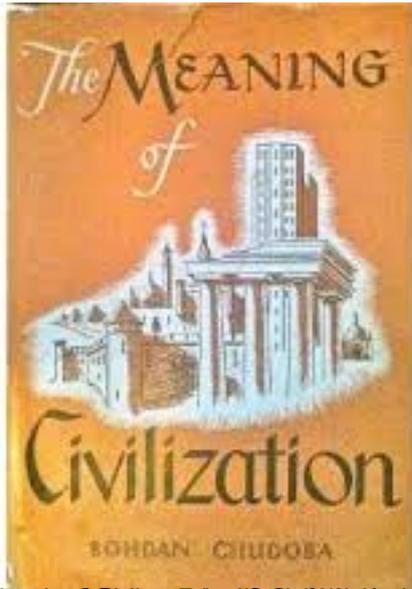
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