

MARIAN EVANGELIZATION IN THE PAULINE YEAR

address of Pilgrimage Director to pilgrims assembled,
after holy Mass, at the monument to St. Isaac Jogues
Wednesday, 24 September 2008

With ecclesial approbations

On the theme, Pilgrimage 2008

**Restoring true devotion to Mary,
Mother of the Living & Divine Liturgy, Instrument of Evangelization**
in the Year dedicated by Pope Benedict XVI to St. Paul, The Apostle

St. Paul, the “The Thirteenth Apostle”, never met Our Lord in the flesh, yet he is the prototype of the apostle or one who seeks to evangelize. Indeed a persistent, albeit erroneous, theory claims that the Apostle Paul changed Christianity so radically, that it became a complicated, moralizing system. Those theorists seem to forget an essential aspect of St. Paul’s evangelization. He wished (as he writes to the Galatians, i:18) “to see Peter.” *Videre Petrum* [to see Peter] is the bond which must unite any apostle to Our Lord and the purity of His teaching. Since the personal witness of the Risen Saviour by each of the Apostles unites them among themselves and is, therefore, the basis of their preaching, Paul, and each of us, must “see Peter”, to better accord and attune our evangelizing with the Incarnate Word.

Since Our Blessed Mother is the Mother of the Church as a whole, as well of each soul, she is the Mother of our evangelizing. For, she watches over the healing of the powers of the soul (intellect, will and memory). In addition, that healing transforms the Christian into a

credible as well as a convincing herald of her Divine Son. Moreover, Our Lady shows us the way of meaningful evangelization. For the authentic Christian never spreads the word by his own wits and devices, nor by himself. Like the Mother of God, he preaches and teaches primarily by bearing the Word in the “womb” which is one’s daily life. Our Lady’s spiritual DNA is inherited by the Christian, who is truly Catholic, at Baptism. While I am not a geneticist, I would hazard a guess that “just as” DNA expresses uniqueness within a common genetic bond, Our Lady’s spiritual DNA expresses one’s call to render Our Lord present through our common Christian family spiritual traits. It is that compelling “family likeness” in us which attracts souls to Him, evangelizing the world. That likeness is expressed by one’s actions, reactions and words which, transformed, gradually grow to resemble those of the Most Holy Redeemer.

May Our Lady, the Most Holy *Theotokos*, give constant birth to the Word in your evangelizing efforts.