

Divine Renovation Chapter 2: Rebuild My House: From Vatican II to Pope Francis (Part 1 of 2)

Chapter 2, “Rebuild my house,” presents a brief background of the priority of evangelization in church teaching beginning with Vatican II and highlights the contributions of each successive post-Vatican II pope.

On **Vatican II**, Fr. Mallon writes, “. . . I would like to claim the central theological insights of all sixteen conciliar documents can be summed up in the following phrases: the universal call to holiness and the universal call to mission.” (p. 28) Mallon continues: “The idea that the call to holiness and mission is rooted not in ordination or in religious profession but in baptism has been so forgotten that it was revolutionary.”

Pope Paul VI: Articulating a theology of mission and evangelization as the responsibility of all Christians, Pope Paul VI’s groundbreaking document, the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (Evangelization in the Modern World) was released in 1975, ten years after the close of Vatican II. The methodology of evangelization must be broad but the essential core is the kerygma, which leads to an encounter with the person of Jesus, not just information about him, that leads to discipleship.

Pope Benedict XVI – Two major developments, the establishment of the office of the Promotion of the New Evangelization in 2010 and the convocation of the 2010 Synod of Bishops to discuss the topic of “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith” marks Benedict’s pontificate. The necessity of the “personal encounter” and the “personal relationship” with Jesus is articulated; the distinction between catechesis and evangelization explored and clarified.