

Information technology and its impact on the world

(1) Impact of revolutions to the way of living (How revolutions impact our world)

We have experienced many revolutions in the world. In Agriculture, printing, industry. Presently we are experiencing the communications revolution. In future we could expect transport and energy to be revolutionized as well. All these revolutions have resulted in improving the human life by way of productivity, efficiency and effectiveness.

The today's revolution will drive all people to have access to a telephone, use SMS, email for inter communication (similar to post earlier). A completely new area of storage has been introduced where it is possible to electronically store vast amounts of data in a small space.

At the early stage of the communication revolution (1985), 2 major types of communications were identified. I.e, public and personal communication. In public communication the earlier tools used were books, news papers, radio. These now appear to be overridden by Internet, and TV.

In personal communication too, similar changes can be seen. Letters, plain old fixed telephone are gradually replaced by e mails and mobile telephones.

The mobile telephone is becoming your own data bank, and you will be able to communicate on line by e mails.

In sociological areas such as learning, health, security, purchasing traditional methods are gradually being replaced by virtual systems such as e learning, e health, e security, e markets. University students need not go to university for lectures, but they can listen to the lecture from their homes and visit the university to do practical s.. The primary medical consultation will be carried out while the patient is at home, and the doctor will be very far away. The book shops will be phased out, and the books can be ordered through the internet, at a much cheaper price than the shop. Now you can download many books to your portable terminal by paying a small subscription!. Your fixed telephone at home will be replaced to accommodate all mobile telephones traffic at your home, internet and Tv will be send thro' the same connection.

The experiments are under way to send smell from one place to another place with the present triple play services such as SKYPE. So now you will see that you can experience all the things from any corner of the globe, as if you are in front of that person. Experiments are underway to detect more conditions such as the energy generated by people specially terrorists, when their minds are in extraordinarily complicated conditions, the signals that they emit or receive!.

At present, another hybrid communication is becoming very popular. Consider the present Mega shows, they use public communication to broadcast the show, while personal communication is used to cast the vote to identify the popularity of the performer. Currently, these shows has become very popular,, attracting almost all Srilankan citizens. The present Communication revolution has created a big impact on the way people live. The paradigm has changed.

The importance of proactive(???)

Geographically speaking Srilanka is strategically located for sea transport. Before aeroplanes came (in 1960), this powerful location has attracted many powerful nations to be interested in our country.

Why? Those days all powerful international transportation was carried out only by ships. Aeroplanes , nuclear powered ships has replaced the need of intermediate transit sea transport location of Sri lanka. We should have identified this fact pro actively.

During the latter part of Industrial revolutions (around 1950) singapore was very far behind when compared to Srilanka. Singapore acted pro actively and today it has become a developed nation.

(Though singapore doesn't have much resources, even the water is imported)In order for a country to be developed people in that country have to act proactively. Proactive people will generate vast amount of energy. Are we energetic people?

(2)How to convert Talents to energy?

Every human being is born with talents. When he lives either he can improve his talents or not. Two actions are vital to convert talents to energy. i.e

(1) you should lead a happy life. According to your religious principals, you should be sin less. (If you sin, you should treat your sin according to your religious principle)(in the case of catholic following the 10 commandments is the basic principle and if you go against, go to confession. With pardoning your enemy and be friendly with him)

(2) You should develop your talents using the latest available technology.(Then you will be efficient, effective & productive)

Depending upon how you are developing your talents to become an energetic person, your behaviour will become either Inactive or Reactive or Proactive.

God will never keep this world Static. Always he will make this world dynamic!. You can go through the gospel

About 'fasting' written by 3 gospel writers . There it clearly indicates that all christians have to synchronise their minds to accept latest technologies, in developing their talents. Christianity teaches us how to convert our talents to energy. So Christianity demands the practical way of living according to the available technology at that time and enjoying life in this world and the next world to come. According to St Jane de chantal(1572 - 1641)

'Hell is filled with people who were Talented, but heaven holds those who were energetic!. ' Gods will be done today, tomorrow and forever without any "If" and "But"

Practical realities!.

(3) Catholicism provide us most practical methods of enjoying happiness in this life and the life yet to come. We move our life with happiness & hope. While we handover our sorrows & fear thro' holy mary to God. In handing over our fears & sorrows, there are many types of rituals adopted by catholics. Lighting candles, writing petitions and placing it at the church are most popular methods. With the internet & e mail, placing petitions are becoming very popular and can be easily adopted. Now you can pray in front of Lourdes grotto in live thro' the internet & place your petitions at the Lourdes grotto in France by e mail. One leukaemia, non catholic patient has been cured by placing her fears at the Lourdes grotto by email. This has happened 2 years back and this young lady is now enjoying her life happily, despite 2 years back, doctors have never guarantee her life!. Modern technology has resulted to practise one major catholic principle of handing over our fears thro' Holy Mary and this has provided many positive out come.

(4) Adaptation of Information Technology at the church

Jesus Christ has not used sound systems at any of his sermons, neither did he t travel by motor vehicles!. Christianity clearly shows, that though Jesus did not have access to that kind of technology, to explain the good news of reaching happiness, the latest technology must be used. We have to be Proactive!, otherwise what has happened economically to srilanka due to non understanding immediate present technology, will happen to our followers. The Church will be full of unhappy people. The Catholic church was supposed to have good management systems those days. It may be that we have not evolved those management systems with the present day technology. In this regard we should not think about other Srilankan religions or orgernisations, since they may not have even the obsolete management that catholic church presently has. We can be a catalyst to show others, how to use the latest management systems in our church. I was attending with my family a mass at Novena church in Singapore last year(2010). There were TV screens for the followers to view. The lyrics of the hymns was displayed on the screen while they are singing. Some Sri lankan catholic churches demands this kind of facilities due to large crowds attending mass. This kind of facility will help the participant to obtain and practise the good news to reach happiness in their lives.

All youngsters including many other peoples are relying on internet for knowledge and information.

Catholic schools/ large churches should operate their own web site for the use of their followers. In these web sites we can always provide knowledge including major activities (both on line, off line) very easily for users. Not only that on line mass can be broadcast ed thro' these web sites, which can be very helpful to

our devotees who cannot attend mass due to sickness or living overseas. On line e mail petitions will attract many devotees to express their gratitude for the favours received or to handover their sorrow or fears to their favourite saints. These kind of novel methods will allow our devotees to enjoy their life thro' catholicism,

A catholic TV channel with many hybrid communication methods can be used to enhance our devotees or young children to understand our religion and to learn how to apply the catholic principles.

Computerised baptism registrations, or wedding or death registration, collection of church donations will certainly improve the present management of the church. These are not very costly, rather we will be able reach to required massive information base within a shorter time.

Catholic church can facilitate novel computerised methods for education since they are responsible for major part as forerunners of education in Srilanka.

(5) Conclusion

Catholic church has identified the need to adapt to the latest technologies of communication as far back as the 2nd vatican council (1965). The second vatican council, in a decree on social communications called 'Inter Mirifica', specifically identified the press, cinema, radio, and TV, as means of communication which of their nature can reach and influence not merely single individuals but the very masses and even the whole of human society. It further gives very specific directions for each member of the church - lay people and members of the clergy alike - to participate in spreading the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through the media. At the 40th anniversary of the paper ' Inter Mirifica' the last pope John Paul2 wrote his last apostolic letter 'The Rapid Development' (2005) spoke about the potential of internet. It says (which is very much pertinent to our church today)

' New technologies in particular create further opportunities for communication understood as the service to the pastoral government and organisations of the different task of the christian community. One clear example today is how the internet not only provides resources for more information but habituate persons to interactive communication.....Do not be afraid of new technologies! These rank among the marvellous things- Inter Mirifica'- which God has placed our disposal to discover, to use and to make known the truth, also the truth about our dignity and about our destiny as his children, heirs of his eternal kingdom.'

Blessed JP2 may not have understood how these new advances in communication worked, but he certainly saw the potential for their use in evengerialisation.

In the concept of Global village, catholicism cannot be separated from modren day technology to reach it's followers with it'smessage of good news for a happy life!