



# EVANGELIZING

*New Vision - New Directions*

# CATECHESIS

*2016 Reflections*

## Article 5. How Do We Proclaim the Gospel in a World that No Longer Understands by Dan Mulhall

The article, “Faith in Cultures: Inculturation and Catechesis,” presents a clear and comprehensive introduction to the importance of proclaiming the Gospel in such a way that it becomes rooted in a culture. The article, written by Rev. Peter C. Phan, who is now on the faculty at Georgetown University, should be mandatory reading for all catechists for it offers us a glimpse of what it means to inculturate the faith.

While the article is now 15 years old, the content presented here remains unchanged and no less important. If we want to catechize effectively we must learn to know and love the culture of the people to who we proclaim the Gospel. To do otherwise is a self-defeating. This is exactly the point that Pope Francis keeps making in many of his talks: It isn’t enough to simply tell people what the Church teaches; we must also journey with them, care for their wounds (field hospital), be an expression of God’s mercy, joyfully share the good news of Jesus so they can understand it and be brought to joy by it.

Several years ago I developed a course for the University of Dayton’s VLCFF (Virtual Learning Communities for Faith Formation) on the Pastoral Approach to Culture. I either didn’t know of or had forgotten that this article existed. With its resurrection I now plan to add this article to the required reading of the course. It is a timeless article and Dr. Phan is the expert on this topic.

**Dan Mulhall** is a lifelong catechist. He currently works with RCL Benziger. He served as the Assistant Secretary for Catechesis and Inculturation for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 1998 until 2007.