

# Illuminating the Mission: Seeing the New Evangelization in the Saint John's Bible



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## Abstract

The Saint John's Bible is the first completely hand written and illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine order since the invention of the printing press. Members of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota worked with renowned calligrapher, Donald Jackson, and several artists and scribes on the extensive project, completing the last of the seven volumes in 2011. This research recognizes the Saint John's Bible as a marvel of artistic mastery but also draws ties between the Bible and the Catholic Church's New Evangelization. First defining and outlining goals of the New Evangelization, this project goes on to show how the intentions of the Bible's creators, its message, and its audience align with the greater evangelical goals of the Catholic Church. This research also includes possible shortcomings for the Saint John's Bible as a tool of evangelism and suggestions for solutions and further study.

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Goucher College  
1021 Dulaney Valley Road  
Baltimore, MD 21204

[www.goucher.edu](http://www.goucher.edu)

Contact Information:

[kristen.welzenbach@goucher.edu](mailto:kristen.welzenbach@goucher.edu)

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