



CatholicVoices

We tell the Church's story

*As sons and daughters of God,
we are called to communicate with
everyone without exception...
The Church's words and actions
are meant to convey mercy, to touch
people's hearts.*

POPE FRANCIS

World Communications Day 2016



CV co-founder Austen Ivereigh on CBS discussing his Pope Francis biography, *The Great Reformer*

WHAT IS CV?

Catholic Voices is a communications project that trains and supports speakers who put the Church's case on news programmes and in public settings.

Spreading across the world since it was first created in the UK in 2010, Catholic Voices has won the admiration of bishops and broadcasters alike. It is increasingly recognized by the media in various countries as an authoritative source of commentary and opinion,

representing a mainstream, faithful Catholic view. CV does not speak officially for the bishops but has their blessing and is seen as close to them.

In media interviews, trainings, workshops, talks, articles, books, briefings and podcasts, CV has been helping Catholics to communicate the Church — especially its positions on hot-button issues that lie behind news stories.





Radio training in Venezuela



Radio training in Colombia

OUR BIG IDEA:

To 'reframe' news stories to help the Church speak directly to contemporary culture. That means understanding the filters that lead people to view the Church in a negative light, and to let the truth and beauty of Catholic teaching shine out. We do that by training people to look for the positive intention in the criticism, and to connect with the values that people share.

CV is a lay-run, independent charity that offers speakers for TV and radio interviews and talk shows, as well as

for parishes and schools. We explain the Church's settled positions with the backing of our bishops but without being their official spokespeople.

It is a service both to the Church and civil society. We believe that the media have the right to hold the Church accountable, and the Church has the duty to clarify its messages.

Catholic Voices was so successful that it's gone on to become a global brand, one of the most sought-after and effective programs for Church communicators today.

JOHN L ALLEN JR
The Boston Globe



Parish talk in Australia



Training in USA



CV Trinidad y Tobago



CV Malta with Archbishop Scicluna



CV Argentina



CV Bolivia

WHERE IS CV?

CV has become a global network of projects inspired by the first Catholic Voices project in the UK in 2010. CV groups have started in 20 countries in different continents.

Each CV group has the blessing of its own bishops and is completely independent, running and funding itself, reflecting the needs and character of the local Church while sharing the core CV approach and principles.

...a development that is right for this moment, not just in church history but in our cultural history. It is a whole new strength in the life of the Church.

CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS
of Westminster

But increasingly, CV projects are working together more, sharing information and briefings, working towards greater universality in our diversity.

In May 2015, we held the first major international gathering of CV groups in Rome, meeting for four days of input from Vatican officials, a tour of the key institutions of the Holy See, and a strategic discussion of our needs and priorities.





TV in Bolivia



I

We speak

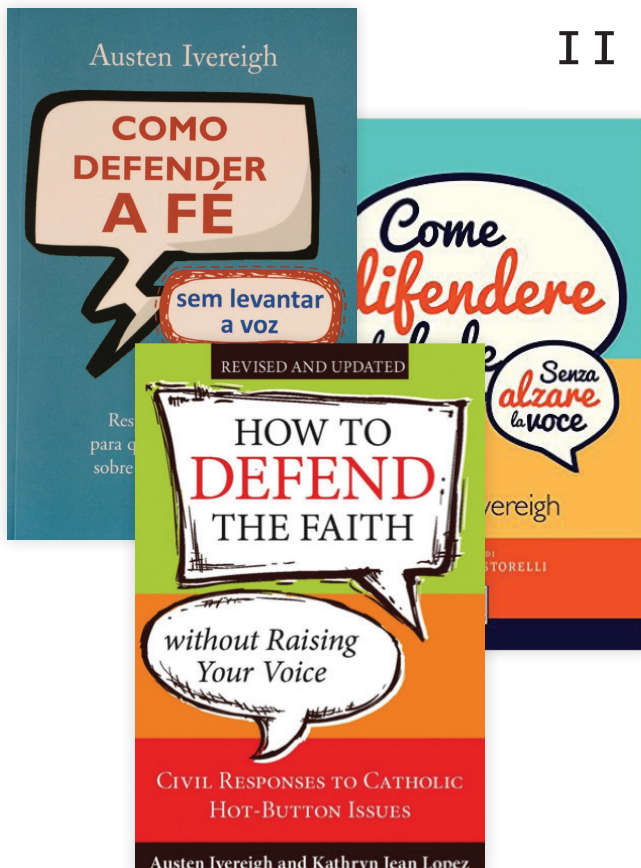
- on TV and radio, in response to news stories. In the UK our speakers have been on more than 900 programmes since 2010; we appear in the news on average twice a week.
- in parishes, schools, monasteries and at diocesan events, on controversial issues such as same-sex marriage and assisted suicide or more religious topics such as mercy.
- we also offer media commentary on papal visits.



WHAT DOES CV DO?

II

We write



The project has given rise to books, especially Austen Ivereigh's *How to Defend the Faith Without Raising Your Voice* (new edition, Our Sunday Visitor, 2015) which has been translated into different languages.

In today's secularized culture, we must prepare ourselves to be able to explain the faith. That's why a few years ago at Christmas I gave all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston a copy of the first edition of How to defend the faith without raising your voice, which is a wonderful primer on a new way to broach the controversial and difficult topics that confront us and at times cause people to become estranged from the Church.

CARDINAL SEÁN O'MALLEY
of Boston



TV training of CV Argentina



TV training of CV Italy

III

We train

- our speakers, in public speaking and media workshops, in the art of reframing. We use professional news presenters and real news stories in as-live studio interviews in order to practice the art of putting the Church's case succinctly and compellingly in key messages.
- we teach our reframing techniques and principles to youth groups, dioceses, and church organizations who want to learn how better to communicate.

I am deeply grateful for the effective work that Catholic Voices does in equipping Catholics with the tools to speak confidently about our faith. More than ever, the Church needs lay men and women to spread the joy of the Gospel, even on those issues that are sometimes difficult to discuss.

CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN
of New York

IV

We brief

Through the Catholic Voices Academy, we offer regular briefings to both journalists and speakers on topics in the news or forthcoming events such as papal trips. CV in Mexico organized day-long seminars for journalists in advance of the trips by Pope Benedict in 2012 and Pope Francis in 2016. We also host public lectures on major topics by visiting speakers.

Training of bishops in Colombia





V

We blog

Our CVcomment.org blog has become a go-to source for authoritative comment on breaking news stories, especially those related to the Vatican and Pope Francis. More than 6,000 people receive email updates every time we post, equipping Catholics with background information and talking points on breaking news stories.



TV training in Chile

VI

We learn

The Academy is also used to hold study days, allowing our speakers to understand major topics in depth. In January 2016, for example, we spent a day getting to grips with the topic of mercy with input from theologians and a canon lawyer.

Our Rome gathering enables leaders of CV groups across the world to assist the Holy See in getting out its messages through briefings by Vatican officials and sharing of ideas.

We need a new generation of lay people who can communicate the joy of knowing Jesus and the power and beauty of the Catholic vision of life and society. We need every Catholic to be a "Catholic voice" that is courageous and merciful.

ARCHBISHOP JOSE GOMEZ
of Los Angeles

God our Father, Bless and guide all those involved
in Catholic Voices.
Give us the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we need for this
work, especially wisdom, gentleness, courage and joy.
Help us to be faithful to Christ and to his Church, and to be
open to the questions that people bring us.
Help us to love and respect all those we meet.
Support us in our difficulties and setbacks.
May our words and the witness of our lives give you
glory and help others to be more open to you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

AMEN
Catholic Voices Prayer

VII

We pray

We hold an annual retreat for speakers, meet regularly for Mass together, and begin each session with our 'CV prayer'.



*The Catholic Voices Global meeting in Rome in May 2015
brought together people from 20 countries*

IN THE UK

Find Us

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-  [@Catholicvoices](https://twitter.com/Catholicvoices)
-  [Catholic Voices UK](https://www.youtube.com/CatholicVoicesUK)
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Lord Brennan and Abbot Christopher Jamison are its patrons. Its chaplain in London, Fr Stephen Wang, is Catholic Chaplain to the University of London.

The Board has currently five trustees and meets every quarter.

Catholic Voices is run day-to-day by its four coordinators: Austen Ivereigh, Jack Valero, Kathleen Griffin and Eileen Cole. Although Global CV and clients are self-funding, Catholic Voices depends on donations to cover costs of training and the Academy. If you would be interested in contributing you can do so through the website or by contacting the coordinators on info@catholicvoices.org.uk