

Mercy MOMENTS



From a “like” to an “amen”

In his message for this 53rd World Communications Day (2 June), Pope Francis talks about the Internet and invites us “to reflect on the foundation and importance of our being-in-relation and to rediscover, in the vast array of challenges of the current communications context, the desire of the human person who does not want to be left isolated and alone.”

The Pope explores some of the dangers of our ‘wired’ world, especially for youth, including social disconnect, cyber-bullying, cyber-crime, privacy disruption and social neglect. In saying this: “we need to recognise how social networks, on the one hand, help us to better connect, rediscover, and assist one another.”

In his message Pope Francis poses the question: “How can we find our true communitarian identity, aware of the responsibility we have towards one another in the online network?”

The answers Pope Francis gives us are...

- *If a family uses the Net to be more connected, to then meet at the table and look into each other’s eyes, then it is a resource.*
- *If a Church community coordinates its activity through the network, and then celebrates the Eucharist together, then it is a resource*
- *If the Net becomes an opportunity to share stories and experiences of beauty or suffering that are physically distant from us, in order to pray together and together seek out the good to rediscover what unites us, then it is a resource*

The internet is an opportunity for connection and hospitality, new ideas and perspectives, ways to dialogue with new people, and opportunities for self-expression. At its best it is a place of celebration and humanity.

In summary Pope Francis said,

“This is the network we want, a network created not to entrap, but to liberate, to protect a communion of people who are free. The Church herself is a network woven together by Eucharistic communion, where unity is based not on “likes”, but on the truth, on the “Amen”, by which each one clings to the Body of Christ, and welcomes others.”

Together may we celebrate the connections made through heart, mind and faith. May we connect through God and the love that binds us together as one human family. May we become more connected to the gifts of creation, and may we use the gift of technology as a resource for the good of all life.
Amen.



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REFLECTION

- > How will you create dialogue, for encounter, for “smiles” and expressions of tenderness in all your online and offline interactions?
- > Reference: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco_20190124_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html

COMPASSION JUSTICE RESPECT HOPE