

COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY 4th May 2008

Introduction to Mass

We celebrate today the Ascension of the Lord. The Church designates this as World Communications Day.

As Jesus says farewell to his followers on the mountain he gives them the order to communicate: make disciples of all nations, teach them to observe all the commandments I gave you. And they are not to lose heart because he will be with them always; yes to the end of time.

On World Communications Day we reflect on what it means to be “consumers and operators of social communications in this era of globalisation”. (Pope Benedict)

HOMILY NOTES

Matthew 26:16-20

Go, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them.....and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

The continuing mission is to spread the Good News.

You will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.

We've not to lose heart. *And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.*

The mission remains the same but the means of communicating, the media, is rapidly changing.

“.....the new media - telecommunications and internet in particular - are changing the very face of communication; perhaps this is a valuable opportunity to reshape it, to make more visible, as my venerable predecessor Pope John Paul II said, the essential and indispensable elements of the truth about the human person” .Pope Benedict

We need to grasp the implications of the potential of the media and what the rapid changes mean.

"Indeed, the media, taken overall, are not only vehicles for spreading ideas: they can and should also be instruments at the service of a world of greater justice and solidarity."
Pope Benedict

Just as rapid development in the sciences has raised ethical questions we never had to face before so changes in media and communications raise new ethical questions which Pope Benedict thinks demand what he calls “info-ethics”.

We have to accept the positive and welcome the potential but be conscious of the negative

Unfortunately, though, they (the media) risk being transformed into systems aimed at subjecting humanity to agendas dictated by the dominant interests of the day.. Pope Benedict

We must not lose sight of the positive. Like the followers of Jesus who witnessed the Ascension and were filled with the Spirit at Pentecost we are in the business of Good News.

“(the media) can and must contribute to making known the truth about humanity, and defending it against those who tend to deny or destroy it. ... Utilising for this purpose the many refined and engaging techniques that the media have at their disposal is an exciting task, entrusted in the first place to managers and operators in the sector Pope Benedict

The Prayer of the Faithful

Let us put before God our needs and intentions.

We pray for Benedict our Pope. We pray for all who are called to preach the Gospel. May they be filled with the gifts of the Spirit.
Lord, in your mercy.....hear our prayer.

We pray for all who hold office in public and political affairs. May they always in their exercise of power respect human dignity and work for the development of people and proper use of the earth's resources.
Lord, in your mercy.....hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are involved in media. May the professionals use their gifts with integrity and to reflect the beauty of creation. May we all recognize the power of media and use it to make more visible the essential and indispensable elements of the truth about the human person.
Lord, in your mercy.....hear our prayer.

We pray for all who work for peace, for those who long for peace in the troubled areas of the world. We pray for peace in our own communities, in our homes and in our hearts.
Lord, in your mercy.....hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick and those who care for them. May they know the Lord's healing touch. We commend to God's care all who have died and are in our thoughts.
Lord, in your mercy.....hear our prayer.

Father, accept our prayers, spoken and unspoken, offered for ourselves and the needs of your whole people through Christ who is Lord forever and ever.