



Christian style in the Digital Age

large reflection about the reality of the Internet in a message published on Social Communications Day, celebrated this Sunday with the motto "Truth, enticity of life in the digital era ".

the Pope about the phenomenon of new social networks of communication he also warns of its dangers. First, the Pope recognized the great change cent years. "New technologies do not change –he says– only the way of e communication itself, so that we can say that we have a huge cultural s way of disseminating information and knowledge is born a new way of

learning and thinking, and new opportunities to establish relationships and build bonds of communion. "

However, the Pope shows also very realistic in front of the new technologies and warns about its dangers or misuses: a partial interaction, the tendency to report only some parts of the inner world, the risk of building a certain image of themselves, which tends to lead to complacency.

In a special way young people are living these new possibilities because these new technologies allow people to found each other beyond the frontiers of space and their own cultures, thus inaugurating a new world of potential friends. This is certainly a great opportunity, but it also means to pay a greater attention and awareness of potential risks.

Among these risks, points out the Pope are seeking refuge in a sort of parallel universe or an excessive exposure to the virtual world. And at this point he warns that should be considered essential, and so says it many communication experts: "It is important to always remember that the virtual contact cannot and should not replace direct human contact in all aspects of our lives."

In the digital network age everyone has to feel the need to be a genuine and thoughtful person. True, that is, true to ourselves, without falling into the dream of building a public image artificially. From there the essential question, that for the Pope, is raised in the new social networks, "Who is my neighbor in this new world?"

And Benedict XVI does not hesitate to propose "a Christian style of presence also in the digital world, characterized by honest and open communication, responsible and respectful of others." I believe that this point is particularly important because it reminds us of the ethical principle that must govern the act of communication, even in the digital age. The respect for truth, respect for people and their rights is the foundation of ethics of communication and, therefore, we must be aware of the profound immorality take advantage of these new networks of communication to spread stereotypes and false attacks against decency and the reputation of individuals.

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