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✠ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR ✠

09 DECEMBER 2018

FAITH, TWITTER, AND ONE SMALL STEP (WITH OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE)

On 12 December 2012 (that would be 12/12/12), His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, took the Pontificate into the world of Social Media with his launch of a Twitter account. This “one small step for a Pope, was truly one giant leap for a Church”. It was – as many of you know – the inspiration for yours truly establishing my own Twitter account (@VeniDomum) on the very same day.

As the sixth anniversary of these launches¹ approach, I encourage those of you who are internet savvy and social media friendly – **in imitation of the Pope** – to consider launching your own Twitter account. It can be used (as the Holy Father said on opening day) to “get in touch with (others) through Twitter”, and with that touch, as a tool of evangelization that can help us – **all of us** – carry out the Great Commission that Jesus entrusted to His Apostles when He said: “Go make disciples of all nations; Baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always; even until the end of the age” (Saint Matthew XXVIII:18-20).



The Lord’s presence amongst us is not discernable with the eyes of the body alone. Saint Paul did not see Him in those he was persecuting (cf. Act IX:5); the “sheep” and the “goats” did not recognize Him in the hungry, thirsty, naked, imprisoned, stranger, and the sick (cf. Saint Matthew XXV:31-46); and on many other occasions such as on the *Road to Emmaus* (cf. Saint Luke XXIV:13-32) and in the *Upper Room* (cf. Saint Luke XXIV:36-37) – even the Twelve (Thomas included) doubted. Those instances considered, is it any wonder that two thousand years after “the Word became Flesh and dwelt amongst us” (Saint John I:14) so many of us still fail to recognize Him: in the persecuted; in the needy; and even in the breaking of the bread?

The Holy Season of Advent offers those of us who *have* seen the Lord, the opportunity to share our vision with others (cf. Saint John XX:25); especially with those who have *eyes but do not see and ears but do not hear*. (Saint Matthew XIII:13); those who *honour Christ with their lips in church at Christmas Mass but whose hearts are far from Him (and the Church/church) on Sunday* (cf. Saint Matthew XV:8). That is the “one small step” the Lord/Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport and throughout the world is “waiting” for all of us to take!

Just as Christ waited to come forth from the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary as encountered by Saint Juan Diego in Guadalupe, so too is He waiting to come forth from our hearts and our lips at home, at work, and at school, all with a little help perhaps from our fingertips on a smartphone and/or a computer with a little help from Twitter. That deeper significance, that “hidden meaning” if-you-will of the Pope’s launch-date is not easy to see. The eyes of the body see the Pope’s Twitter-launch on “12/12/12” as an interesting occurrence. Yet when the date 12 December is looked at with the eyes of Faith and recognized as the Feast of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, Twitter is seen (as the Pope sees it) as a new way – in union with Mary – to give Birth to Christ!

¹ (And let us at Our Holy Redeemer not forget the upcoming 50th Anniversary of that 20 July 1969 launch, that helped our current Stewardship Appeal campaign to blast off a few weeks ago).