

# WCD 2009

23/1/2009 - Vatican – Message for the XLIIIrd World Communications Day

(ANS –Vatican City) – “New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship.” Is this title of the message of the Holy Father Benedict XVI for the XLIIIrd World Communications Day published on the feast of Saint Francis of Sales, Patron of journalists.



**In his message the Pope puts at the centre of his reflection specific ideas about the “fundamental shifts in patterns of communication and human relationships,” particularly evident among the young.**

**In addressing those who belong to the “digital generation”, the Holy Father wishes to share “some ideas concerning the extraordinary potential of the new technologies, if they are used to promote human understanding and solidarity.” In listing the benefits in the use of the communication technologies, Pope Benedict XVI, highlights the real nature of this “desire to communicate,” which “is rooted in our very nature as human beings” which however, “cannot be adequately understood as a response to technical innovations..”**

**For the Pope “The desire for connectedness and the instinct for communication that are so obvious in contemporary culture are best understood as modern manifestations of the basic and enduring propensity of humans to reach beyond themselves and to seek communion with others,” a relationship that should be understood as “real love”, “that is at the very heart of Jesus’ moral teaching: “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” and “You must love your neighbour as yourself” (cf. Mk 12:30-31) and not as “fleeting, shallow relationships.”**

**In addition the Pope addresses those working with the new media reminding them that “If the new technologies are to serve the good of individuals and of society, all users will avoid the sharing of words and images that are degrading of human beings, that promote hatred and intolerance, that debase the goodness and intimacy of human sexuality or that exploit the weak and vulnerable.”**

**Finally to young Catholics, the Pope encourages them “to bring the witness of their faith to the digital world,” and committing themselves “to introduce into the culture of this new environment of communications and information technology,” called by the Holy Father “this digital continent” “the values on which you have built your lives.”**

**The XLIII World Communications Day will be held on 31 May**