From Pontiff to Pew (continued):

Imitate Saint Joseph, who took on the task of raising Jesus, bringing him to the temple, teaching him to work honestly and showing him that God must come first in a person's life. Dear fathers and grandfathers, young people need to see that you pray, receive the sacraments, treat your wives with respect, ask for forgiveness and live with integrity, even when doing so requires sacrifice. Children learn a great deal by seeing that their father can kneel before God without feeling that he is any less of a man for doing it.

Scripture called on God's people to keep the words they have received from him in their hearts and to teach them to their children, to speak of them "when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise" (Deut 6:7). God was central to conversation, decision making and daily family life. In this way, children learned that the faith they received from their parents was also what their parents lived by. Likewise today, bishops, priests and consecrated persons are also called to support families in this task, generously exercising their spiritual fatherhood and motherhood, accompanying those who falter and helping many to rediscover the path to God.

Passing on the faith means bringing others to Christ, whom we ourselves have encountered. Mary shows us precisely how to do this. In the Gospel, Elizabeth welcomes her exclaiming: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Lk 1:42). Mary does not keep that praise to herself. When Elizabeth proclaims her blessed, Mary responds by singing of the Lord's greatness (cf. Lk 1:46-55). At Cana, when others turn to her, she directs them to her Son: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5).

In the second reading, Saint Paul explicitly states a truth that Mary's entire life proclaims: "There is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human" (1 Tim 2:5). All of Mary's greatness is based on her relationship with Christ: she welcomes him, lives by him, and leads others to him. An encounter with the Master is the goal of all evangelization and of all authentic Marian devotion. The Son of God has given himself up for all; thus, no one can be excluded from the Church's prayer. That is why Saint Paul asks us to pray "for kings and all who are in high positions" (1 Tim 2:2), and for all people, because God "desires everyone to be saved" (1 Tim 2:4).

On this feast of the Patroness of Uruguay, let us bring this entire people before the Lord. Let us pray for those who bear the responsibility of governing it, that they may seek with integrity the good of all; for families, for young people, for those who suffer, for those who feel far from God and for those who need to return to him and change their lives.

Saint Luke shows us how that mission begins. After conceiving the Son of God, Mary "set out and went with haste" (1:39). She does not wait for Elizabeth to come looking for her, but rather goes out to meet her and enters her home, carrying the Lord with her. There, the child leaps for joy, and Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit (cf. Lk 1:41-44). Mary's action also points out the way for us. We cannot always wait for those who have strayed to return on their own. People of Uruguay: you must set out on the journey! You must enter people's homes once more, draw near to them, listen to their questions and bring them to Christ! Each of you knows a person toward whom you need to take that step:

perhaps a child, a friend, a neighbor, someone who stopped believing long ago or who has never had anyone close to them to speak to them about God.

May the Queen of Heaven sustain those who continue to sow the faith. May she teach us to recognize Christ in the poor, the sick and those who are alone, and teach us to bring him to places where he is not yet known.

Soon I will place the Golden Rose before this image. With this gesture, I wish to honor the one who is indeed "the great pride of our nation" (Jud 15:9) and to make visible the fulfillment of the words she herself spoke: "All generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1:48).

To Mary, commander and guide of this people, I wish to consecrate this nation anew, to entrust this land and all who live in it to her protection and to implore God that, through her powerful intercession, he may thwart the works of the evil one and preserve beloved Uruguay from whatever might lead it away from Christ. May this Golden Rose, offered as a sign of veneration and filial love, also remind her children that they are called to imitate her by loving Christ as she loved him, and bringing him to others as she brought him. Amen.

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HEARING JESUS' COMMAND TO LOVE THE POOR IN OUR MIDST: A sincere thank you to all participated in our recent coat drive which turned out to be a tremendous success. As always, I am so very pleased with the generosity of our parish when asked to enflesh the **Corporal Works of Mercy** *(namely clothing the naked).* As the holiday season draws near, in particular Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hannukah we know that one of the things that most of us can envision is the tremendous feast associated with their celebration. Unfortunately, due to the current economic climate, there are many in our community who suffer from food insecurity. And I can sadly assure you that there are members of our own parish who are not immune from these adverse circumstances. It is with this in mind that I am once again asking to hear Jesus's clarion call to live out the first two of the **Corporal Works of Mercy** *(giving food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty)* by contributing to our holiday food drive that will begin next Sunday, November 15 and continue until the Third Sunday of Advent, December 13. (This may seem like a long period of time; however, the needs that I have witnessed is greater than ever before). All that is required of you is to bring any number of perishable food items to the room formerly known as the usher room of the main vestibule of the Church. Having delivered food items to those who struggle financially, especially at this time of year, I know well that things as simple as some canned goods, boxes of cereal, or other non-perishable food items can bring tremendous relief to families (old and young) who through no fault of their own find themselves in dire need. Whether you have given consistently, or you have never given before, please consider the simple gift of food as a way to share God's goodness to you.

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Mom's House is selling chances for "25 Days of Purses & Accessories." Each ticket contains 4 – three-digit numbers. That's 100 chances to win! Cost is $25. Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Program. Call 814-535-4848 to purchase your ticket. Or visit www.momshousejohnstown.com to purchase your ticket.