From Pontiff to Pew (continued):

This is the vision of the Church that he has passed on to us: a welcoming Church, open to all, where everyone can feel at home, be listened to, recognized in their dignity, be reconciled with God, with themselves and with the community, and be valued for their gifts and limitations; and, at the same time, a Church that is wholly missionary, finding her coherence and joy in evangelizing. In Argentina, I experienced the enthusiastic and harmonious participation of the holy people of God. In this atmosphere of great affection for the Pope – which I shall never forget – I urged them to cultivate communion in the richness of diversity, and I encouraged their commitment to building a just and supportive society, in accordance with the principles of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

The visit to Peru was a little longer, because I owe a special debt of gratitude to the People of God living in that country. The motto of this third leg was "*Let us open our hearts!*" To follow Christ, we must open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, following the example of the saints. The history of Peru would not have been the same without the presence and work of Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Saint Rose of Lima, Saint Francis Solano, Saint Martín de Porres and Saint Juan Macías. Together with faith, hope and charity, they promoted respect for human dignity, a sense of the sanctity of life, reconciliation and peace: they built the civilization of love. Their witness is alive and relevant today, and even now there is no shortage of men and women who, with hearts open to God and to their neighbour, are committed to building a more just and fraternal Peru. It was a great joy for me to be able to encourage them with the grace proper to the Petrine ministry; and I also sought to do so by meeting personally, here as in other countries, some victims of abuse.

In Chiclayo, in particular, I felt at home. I rediscovered the simple and genuine faith animated by popular piety; I felt the embrace of the rural communities of the Cordillera; I was able to meet again with people who have left a deep mark on my life. My heart was filled with gratitude at being able to be amongst those communities and to strengthen them in faith and hope. Thanks be to God, I was also able to visit Cusco, where the fruits of the marvellous work of inculturation of the Gospel carried out by the missionaries are still being enjoyed, and then the Amazon region, to meet those peoples rich in traditional culture yet wounded by injustices and violence.

Dear friends, by visiting the local Churches during the Apostolic Journeys, the Pope is able to see the beauty of the People of God on their journey, despite the difficulties that may be encountered depending on the contexts and the historical moments. Indeed, everywhere one recognizes how the Holy Spirit helps the Church to be a sign and instrument of unity, in listening to the Word of God, in the celebration of the holy Mysteries and in the service of charity.

A constant presence that accompanied every leg of this Journey was that of the Virgin Mary. This is easy to understand, for she is truly part of the history of those peoples; she walks with them, guides them and comforts them. I too thank her for her protection and entrust to her intercession all those who, in countless ways, have welcomed and supported me on this mission. I renew my gratitude to the Bishops and the civil authorities of the countries I visited, to the priests, consecrated men and women, all the faithful who participated in person or spiritually. May the Lord, who has given me this great grace, always bless those peoples and guide them on the way of peace in justice and in fraternity.

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The **2027 Yearly Calendars** of Prizes are now available! The 2027 Yearly Calendars have now arrived and are available for purchase in the main vestibule of the Church. This is potentially our largest fundraiser of the year. Please help us with this project by purchasing a calendar. They make wonderful Christmas gifts. Thank you.

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Save the Dates to Decorate - On **Saturday, November 28th**, we will be decorating for the Advent season and put new missalettes in the pews. We will be boxing up the old missalettes as well. In the month of December, there are a few dates we would need help with decorating and setting up for Christmas. For **the week of December 13th**, we need some individuals who are able to help set up the large trees in the sanctuary. We realistically only need about 2 - 3 people for this. If there is anyone who would like to help out, we would really appreciate it. Please call the rectory if you are able to assist with this task. The date in which the trees will go up will be determined at a later date. On **Monday, December 21st**, we will be decorating for the Christmas season. We appreciate any and all help we can for getting ready for the Advent and Christmas season.

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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 began Sunday, November 15 and will 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.