

## THE MEDIA AND SOCIETY

Br. Eleazar Palma LC

If you asked me what my favorite TV show was before I entered the Legion I would have said "How I Met Your Mother." My favorite movie was "The Godfather." Favorite website was definitely YouTube. I played FIFA on an Xbox 360. I listened to Rap and enjoyed Country music. For news, I watched Fox and listened to NPR on the radio. I had about 800 friends on Facebook and roughly 300 followers on Twitter, four of whom I still keep in contact with. The media had a huge impact on my life and it has a huge impact on yours.

Whether we like it or not our lives are constantly "plugged-in" to media of all sorts. This has been made possible through the advancements in technology especially regarding smartphones, tablets, and computers; everything is just a click away. We are constantly bombarded with billboards, flyers, ads, etc. As a result, people's mindsets and society itself are being molded by whatever comes out on the big screen, the internet, radio, or any other form of media.

This "molding" of society by the media is not going too well. According to *Psychology Today* more than 30 percent of internet content is pornographic and pornographic websites receive more visits in one month than Netflix, Twitter, and Amazon combined. Of all of Hollywood movie releases in a particular year, the most and highest grossing ones are rated PG-13 or R, usually for strong violence and sexual content. *Spotify* has commented that the most listened to genre of music is Rap/Hip-Hop of which most of the lyrics, not all, stay within the margins of being rich, having sex, and doing drugs. There are many more examples. The point is that what today's popular media is presenting us with goes against the Christian way of thinking, against our morals, against our ideal. This is especially true among young people who are more and more exposed to all types of media from a very young age, I have seen second graders with the new iPhone.



I am not a person who believes that media is the devil. My solution, if I may give one, would not be to destroy all social media and go back to the Stone Age. I believe we should use the media to our advantage, much more than we are doing now. The New Evangelization through forms of media is a field that we have only scratched the surface of. If one of the greatest weapons decaying this culture is the media, why don't we use that weapon? We need to rethink our strategy, and place more resources into changing culture through the media. It is time to infuse music, movies, literature, news, with virtues that have been clearly lost over the years, so that from a young age, people will think more about being good people and not so much about how many likes they get on Instagram.