



‘Magnifica Humanitas’: Pope Leo’s AI Encyclical Warns of Temptation to Build Future Excluding God



OSV News illustration/Lola Gomez, CNS/Dado Ruvic, Reuters

A combination photo shows Pope Leo XIV and an illustration message reading “AI artificial intelligence,” a keyboard and robot hands.

By Courtney Mares

VATICAN CITY (OSV News) — Pope Leo XIV published his landmark encyclical on artificial intelligence “Magnifica Humanitas” May 25, comparing the attempt to build an AI future that excludes God to the “Tower of Babel” and underlining the need to safeguard human dignity as it is “threatened by new forms of dehumanization.”

“The risk of dehumanization — of building a future that excludes God and reduces the other to a means — is an ancient and ever-new temptation that today takes on a technical guise,” Pope Leo wrote in his first encyclical, “Magnifica Humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence.”

“In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of

humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace,” he said.

— **AI misuse compared to ‘Tower of Babel’** —

Pope Leo opens the first encyclical of his pontificate by saying that humanity today faces a pivotal choice — “either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together.” Using the Biblical Genesis narrative, the pope warns against the “‘Babel syndrome,’ namely the idolatry of profit that sacrifices the weak” and the pretense that everything, “including the mystery of the person,” can be translated into “data and performance.”

“Calling for prudence, rigorous evaluation and even, at times, a slower pace in adopting AI does not mean opposing progress; instead, it is an exercise of responsible care for the human family,” Pope Leo wrote.

— **From cryptocurrency to the ‘Lord of the Rings’** —

The lengthy papal document is divided into five chapters and touches on wide ranging issues related to AI, including the prospect of massive unemployment, the future of education, the protection of human freedom, excessive screen time for young people, cryptocurrencies, economic disparities, transhumanism, cyberattacks and the application of Catholic social teaching principles.

Pope Leo dedicated the final chapter of the encyclical to AI in warfare and the need for “rigorous ethical constraints” and proactive peacebuilding “to curb the technological arms race.”

The American pope points to Martin Luther King Jr., St. Teresa of Kolkata, Dorothy Day, St. Maximilian Kolbe and others as examples that “history can also

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To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishop-abuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other concerns such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in WV. EthicsPoint can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://dhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx> West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2026 Print Dates:

- The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, July 7
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 14
- Triumph of the Cross, September 11
- Month of the Rosary, October 9
- Advent, November 20
- Christmas, December 18



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Pope...

Cont'd from Page 1

change when individuals truly take the dignity of everyone seriously."

In "Magnifica Humanitas," Latin for "Magnificent Humanity," the pope calls on Christians not to be "passive spectators" or "mere commentators on what is crumbling," but to take a proactive role in building the future by cultivating community and in-person relationships, educating young people to love wisdom, spending time with the poor and the lonely, being a voice for justice, defending objective truth, and treating the digital world as "a new continent to be evangelized."

"It is not our part to master all the tides of the world, but to do what is in us for the succour of those years wherein we are set, uprooting the evil in the fields that we know, so that those who live after may have clean earth to till," the pope wrote, quoting J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King." He added that it is "small and steadfast acts of fidelity that serve as a bulwark against dehumanization."

— 'Slowing things down when everything is accelerating' —

In the encyclical, Pope Leo says that the idea of a "more moral AI" is not enough if that morality is only determined by a few.

"What is needed is a more active political involvement that is capable of slowing things down when everything is accelerating, and of protecting the opportunities for communities still to be able to participate and ask questions," he said.

The pope argues that "we cannot consider AI to be morally neutral" and underlines that ethical discernment cannot be limited to "asking whether we are using a system for good or bad purposes," but must also "examine how that system is designed and what vision of the human person and society is embedded in the data and models that guide it."

Pope Leo added that data cannot be left solely in private hands and "should not be treated as something to be sold off or entrusted to a select few," calling for appropriate regulation and creative thinking to "manage data as a common or shared good."

— Unemployment as a 'grave evil' and 'social calamity' —

Pope Leo addresses the looming specter of mass unemployment due to the adoption of AI, saying this would be "a true social calamity that especially requires the State to exercise responsibility." He cites St. John Paul II's 1981 encyclical on human work "Laborem Exercens," noting that his predecessor recognized that unemployment is "a grave evil," with Pope Leo adding that "exposing many to forced inactivity, a lack of responsibility and the absence of daily tasks and stimuli" could lead to "human and cultural impoverishment."

"The pursuit of greater profits cannot justify choic-

es that systematically sacrifice jobs, because the human person is an end, not a means, and the economic order must remain subordinate to human dignity and the common good," Pope Leo said.

"Without bold decisions, the prospect of greater poverty and inequality looms large, which would leave many individuals marginalized, stranded and surrounded by the machines and automated systems that have replaced them," he added.

— God created humans for communion, not efficiency —

Pope Leo writes that AI promises efficiency but the "new ways" of working are not necessarily better, describing how "contrary to the advertised benefits of AI, current approaches to technology can paradoxically de-skill workers, subject them to automated surveillance and relegate them to rigid and repetitive tasks."

"When efficiency becomes the ultimate measure of value, human beings are tempted to see themselves as a project to be optimized rather than as persons called to relationship and communion," Pope Leo said.

— A defense of objective truth —

Truth is a major theme in the encyclical by the Augustinian pope. He said that in the face of incessant flows of information, opinions, images and sophisticated algorithms that can influence decisions, it is imperative to "cultivate hearts that love the truth, prefer what is right despite the most appealing content and pursue wisdom rather than immediate results."

"We must always keep before us the truth about God and humanity, just as Christ has revealed them to us. We must lay aside an individualistic and technical view of humanity," he said.

Quoting Pope Benedict XVI, he added, "Modern man is wrongly convinced that he is the sole author of himself, his life and society. This is a presumption that follows from being selfishly closed in upon himself."

The pope underlined that "the search for truth is an essential element of democracy," and that "indifference to the truth leads, slowly but surely, to a descent into totalitarianism."

He said people must "promote an ecology of communication," in which public policy establishes norms "so that the decision-making behind content selection and its development becomes more transparent and protects personal data." On a cultural level, he called for "a strengthening of intermediary organizations, serious journalism and forums for debate," for families and schools to gain formation in using digital tools, and for universities to strive for the "integration of knowledge."

"Our first task is neither to demonize nor idolize technological tools, but to utilize them on the basis of a fundamental principle, namely that truth is a common good and not the property of those with power or influence," he said.

— Social control and the 'digital attention economy' —

Pope Leo called for "education in digital sobriety" due to subtle forms of addiction in today's "digital attention economy," in which digital platforms that are "designed to capture users' time and attention" weaken "their inner freedom."

He warned of the risk of "social control made possible by the massive collection of data and use of algorithmic systems."

"When every action — movements, purchases, relationships and preferences — leaves a trace, a new form of power emerges, namely the power to profile, predict and influence behavior, often without individuals being fully aware of it," he said. "If such kinds of data are used to make decisions affecting concrete opportunities — such as access to credit, employment or essential services — there is a risk of undermining freedom and discriminating against the most vulnerable."

— Pope Leo XIII and Catholic social doctrine —

Pope Leo XIV places his writing on the age of artificial intelligence within the context of the magisterial tradition of Catholic social doctrine, also known as Catholic social teaching. The first chapter of the encyclical provides an overview of what each pope has contributed to the Church's social magisterium from Pope Leo XIII to present, highlighting key ideas that are particularly relevant today. The second chapter provides definitions of key principles of Catholic social doctrine from the "common good" to "subsidiarity." Pope Francis and St. John Paul II are both frequently quoted throughout the encyclical.

Pope Leo XIV signed "Magnifica Humanitas" on May 15, the 135th anniversary of "Rerum Novarum," Pope Leo XIII's foundational 1891 social encyclical on labor and capital written during the Industrial Revolution.

"While new economic and technological networks can generate exclusion, isolation and dependencies, the Church — nourished by the Eucharist — is called to make visible a different paradigm, one that preserves human connections, gives a voice to the invisible and ensures that processes are aimed at respecting people's dignity," Pope Leo said.

(Courtney Mares is Vatican editor for OSV News.)

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Catholic School Students Honored in Charleston



Colleen Rowan photo

In the back, from left, are: Aquinas Medal recipient Austin Lucas, Our Lady of Fatima Parish School, Huntington; Catholic Schools Superintendent Jennifer Hornyak; Aquinas Medal recipient Mateo Francis Lao, Charleston Catholic High School; St. Sebastian Medal recipient Mary Rushworth, Charleston Catholic High School; Bishop Mark Brennan; and Aquinas Medal recipient Julie Blatt, St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, Huntington. In the front, from left, are Aquinas Medal recipients Hadley Heumann, St. Francis of Assisi School, St. Albans; Vincent Marshall, Sacred Heart Grade School, Charleston; Ria Asaithambi, St. Francis de Sales School, Beckley; and St. Sebastian Medal recipient Kieran Moran, Charleston Catholic High School.

By Colleen Rowan

CHARLESTON—The final of three ceremonies honoring exemplary students of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Catholic schools was held May 7 at Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston.

The students were from the Catholic schools of the southern region and were honored by Bishop Mark Brennan and Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools Jennifer Hornyak. The honorees were recipients of the Aquinas and St. Sebastian

medals. The honorees from Catholic schools of the northern and central regions received their awards at separate events. Each of the events were sponsored by the West Virginia State Council of the Knights

See "Students" on Page 5

Obituary—Monsignor Patrick Lee Fryer, Capt. U.S. Navy Corps., Retired

Monsignor Patrick Lee Fryer, 85, of Gerrardstown, W.Va., formerly of Ridgeley, W.Va., passed away May 23, 2026, at Country House, Cumberland, Md.

Born November 9, 1940, in Cumberland, he was the son of the late Mayor Charles H. and Elizabeth A. "Bessie" (Malamphy) Fryer, Sr. He was also preceded in death by brothers, Joseph P. Fryer and Charles H. "Brother" Fryer, Jr., and his beloved sister, Camilla Rae Whiteman.

Monsignor Fryer was a 1959 graduate of Ridgeley High School. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy for four years, serving on the aircraft carriers USS Essex and part of the first crew to man the new USS Constellation. After completion, he entered the Sacred Heart Monastery on his divine journey of being ordained a Roman Catholic priest. He was ordained August 18, 1973, by the Most Reverend James Walsh, M.M., at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Cumberland. His first assignment was at Holy Assumption Parish in West Alice, Wis., until 1974 when he reenlisted in the U.S. Navy as a chaplain. During his naval career, he was assigned at various duty stations, including Yokosuka, Japan; Rota, Spain; Pensacola NAS, Fla., where he was the Blue Angel Naval Demonstration Team Chaplain; Philadelphia, Pa.; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Norfolk, Va.; and San Diego Naval Base, Calif., where he was Command Chaplain of the Pacific Fleet Chaplains of the U.S. Navy. He was assigned to the Pentagon as executive assistant to the chief of all chaplains of the U.S. Navy. His final duty station was as the command chaplain at Quantico Marine Corps Base, Va. His naval command positions had him travel to many places, including Naval Support Force, New Zealand, Japan, McMurdo Station, Antarctica, as well as Sea Duty on the USS Coral Sea as a command battle force chaplain. Monsignor Fryer was awarded many Naval and Marine Corps operational achievements: Legion of Merit Gold



Star 2nd device, Navy and Marine Corps Meritorious Medal Gold Star 2nd device, and the Navy Commendation Medal Gold Star 3rd device. During his Navy career, Monsignor Fryer was incardinated into the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in 1983. He was assigned as pastor of St. Paul

Catholic Church and School in Weirton, W.Va., from 2002 to 2005, and St. Joseph Catholic Church and School in Martinsburg, W.Va., from 2006 to 2012, where he retired from his active ministry in 2012 to his mountaintop home in Gerrardstown. Along the way, he managed to marry his brother Steve and wife Cathy and baptize most of his nieces and nephews.

He was a member of Council #586, Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include his brother, Stephen Fuller Fryer and wife Cathy, Wiley Ford; sisters, Mary Elizabeth Andrews, Keyser; Sheila Ann Mickey and friend Richard, Ridgeley; sister-in-law, Nellie Fryer, Ridgeley; brother-in-law Roy "Buck" Whiteman, Ridgeley; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to the staff at Country House for all of the great care they have given him over the past two years. Also, a special thanks to the care given from the Veterans Administration Home Based Primary Care, Cumberland.

Visitation will be at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Cumberland, on Monday, June 1, 2026, from 4-7 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Patrick Catholic Church on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 1 p.m., with the Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan as celebrant.

Interment will be in SS. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Cumberland, where military honors will be accorded.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Anthony Catholic Church, 176 Main Street, Ridgeley, W.Va. 26753 or Council #586, Knights of Columbus, 66 N. Mechanic Street, Cumberland, Md. 21502.

Students...

Cont'd from Page 4 of Columbus.

According to the souvenir booklet provided at all three events, "The Aquinas Medal is named for St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of Catholic schools and students. St. Thomas combined his powerful intellect with an all-embracing love of God, dedicating himself to sharing an awareness of God with all his students, just as your teachers do. The Aquinas Medal commemorates St. Thomas's dedication to learning and his love of God. It is presented each year to the one student from each school who best embodies the qualities of Catholic school education: excellence in learning, faithful discipleship, leadership, and service to school, parish and community.

"The St. Sebastian Medal is intended to recognize high-achieving student athletes in the diocese. The student athletes selected will have demonstrated throughout their high school careers the qualities necessary to be a well-rounded athlete such as sportsmanship, teamwork, academics (maintaining a 3.0 or higher GPA) and a high degree of respect for school, classmates, teammates, opponents, parish and the community at large. The student ought to be the best example of a student athlete in his/her re-

spective sport in the school."

Each student received their award from their principals and were then congratulated by Bishop Brennan and Hornyak.

Aquinas Medals recipients for the southern region were Austin Lucas, Our Lady of Fatima Parish School, Huntington; Mateo Francis Lao, Charleston Catholic High School; Julie Blatt, St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, Huntington; Hadley Heumann, St. Francis of Assisi School, St. Albans; Vincent Marshall, Sacred Heart Grade School, Charleston; and Ria Asaithambi, St. Francis de Sales School, Beckley.

St. Sebastian Award recipients were Kieran Moran and Mary Rushworth, Charleston Catholic High School; and Ava Gallion and Brier Wagner, St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, Huntington.

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The Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Washington

A Spotlight on Mercer County's Two Sacred Heart Churches

*In Anticipation of the
Consecration of the U.S.
to the Most Sacred
Heart of Jesus*



Members of Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton are shown during Mass May 2.

Colleen Rowan photo

By Colleen Rowan

The Catholic Spirit's spotlight on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's 10 active churches named for the Sacred Heart continues in anticipation of the U.S. bishops consecration of the nation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11.

This issue focuses on Mercer County, home to Sacred Heart Parishes in Bluefield and Princeton which will hold the Novena to the Most Sacred

Heart of Jesus from June 4 to the solemnity on June 12. The parishes are headed by one pastor, Father Joseph Augustine, J.C.L., and are located about 20 minutes from each other.

Each day of the novena reflects on the wisdom of saints and pontiffs on the Sacred Heart and offers opportunities for prayer and action, framed by Pope Francis' encyclical *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us) and Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation *Dilexi Te* (I Have Loved You), accord-

ing to resources provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The novena concludes with the consecration of the nation on June 11.

The schedule for the Sacred Heart Parishes in Mercer County will end on the solemnity. The schedule is as follows:

June 4 and 5: 10 a.m., Bluefield; noon, Princeton

June 6: 4 p.m., Princeton; 6 p.m. Bluefield

June 7: 9 a.m., Bluefield; 11 a.m., Princeton

June 8: 10 a.m., Bluefield; noon, Princeton

June 9: noon Bluefield; 6 p.m., Princeton (starting at 5 p.m. — Liturgy of the Hours, adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, confessions)

June 10: noon, Princeton; 6 p.m., Bluefield (starting at 5 p.m. — Liturgy of the Hours, adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, confessions)

June 11: 10 a.m., Bluefield; noon, Princeton

June 12: (the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus): noon, Bluefield (parish dinner will be held after the Saturday, June 13, 6 p.m. Mass); 6 p.m., Princeton (parish dinner to follow)

All are invited to attend the novena. Both parishes have welcoming congregations whose churches are beautiful reflections of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Visitors may also want to check out the Sacred Heart Prayer Garden across the street from Sacred Heart Church in Princeton. This peaceful and prayerful place features many statues —the Infant Jesus of Prague, the Blessed Mother Mary, and the Guardian Angel — with a magnificent statue of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at the center.

Here is a brief history of the two Mercer County Sacred Heart Parishes, according to "Faith In The Mountains: A History of The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston 1850-2000":

"The Catholic community in Princeton predates the founding of the church in 1895. The first Catholics were brought to the region by the Virginian Railroad and coal companies in neighboring McDowell County. The initial ten to

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Churches...

Cont'd from Page 8

twelve families were organized by Rev. Emil Olivier, who ministered to them from St. Mary Parish in Wytheville, Virginia. The families gathered for Mass in private homes, then a theater and the County Courthouse, until the first church was built in 1914. Rev. Jeremiah O'Connell was appointed as the first resident pastor. Diocesan priests staffed the parish until 1941, when the Oblates of Mary Immaculate were invited to take over the parish, remaining until 1981. The present church was built by the community and dedicated in 1967."

Bluefield "Catholics came to work in the coal fields in southern West Virginia at the end of the nineteenth century. The families were visited occasionally by the priest assigned to St. Mary's, Wytheville, until the first resident pastor, Rev. Emil Olivier, was appointed in 1894. Mass was held at the Bluefield Inn and an old laundry until the first church was built in 1895. A new Spanish-gothic style church was completed in 1925 on a lot donated by Mr. P.J. Kelly. Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus staffed the parish school founded in 1926 for thirty-five years. A separate mission for black Catholic members of the community, Our Lady of Lourdes, was established by 1940 and was served by Oblate Fathers out of Princeton over its fifteen-year history."

The U.S. bishops are consecrating the nation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the United States.

For the novena and other resources for parishes provided by the USCCB, visit <https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/Novena%20to%20the%20Sacred%20Heart%20Full.pdf>

For the USCCB's Celebrating Catholic Contributions to the United States of America on the Semiquincentennial, visit <https://www.usccb.org/weholdthesetruths>



Sacred Heart Church in Bluefield is shown above.

Courtesy photo

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Three Ohio Valley Residents Graduate from Wheeling University's Honors Program



Courtesy photo

Three Ohio Valley residents, Mariah Pelkey, Andy Schmidt, and Olivia Moyer received special recognition during Wheeling University's Commencement May 9.

WHEELING — Three members of the Wheeling University Class of 2026 received special recognition at the 68th Commencement Ceremony May 9 as members of the Laut Honors Program.

The students who received special recognition for completing the Laut Honors Program are, Olivia Moyer of St. Clairsville, Ohio, Mariah Pelkey of Yorkville, Ohio, and Andrew Schmidt of St. Clairsville, Ohio.

Moyer will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree, Pelkey will be awarded Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science, and Schmidt will receive Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration and Sports Management.

The Laut Honors program moti-

vates students to broaden their learning beyond the classroom by engaging in activities that promote life-long learning and leadership. Throughout the honors program, students participate in peer-group interactions, activities to promote problem-solving and critical thinking, service, and preparation for future education and jobs opportunities.

Each semester, Laut Scholars participate in a book study and a community service project. Guest speakers routinely visit the seminar class to discuss teamwork, leadership potential, and resume writing skills.

Director Sue Hvizdos describes the students as "a diverse group of scholar-athletes who exhibit
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8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
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New Cumberland Parishioners Join in 'America Needs Fatima' Prayer Movement



Photo by Donna Warner

Members of Immaculate Conception Parish in New Cumberland prayed the rosary on Saturday, May 16, at noon for the "America Needs Fatima" prayer movement. From left are Dan Robinson, Scott Highfield, Larry Binkoski, Father Bill Matheny, Dorothy Swearingen, Nancy Rettinger, Matt Burskey, Susan Coxen, Pam Riggi, Bonnie Burskey, and Andrea Everly. The organization's website states that America Needs Fatima (ANF) is a special campaign to spread the message of Fatima in the United States. The goal of America Needs Fatima is to win the heart and soul of America for Mary by spreading Our Lady's Fatima message and promoting devotion to Her Immaculate Heart. "America urgently needs the prophetic messages of Our Lady at Fatima," it states. "Above all, America needs a clear direction, a great purpose, and the means to achieve it. The admonitions, requests, and warnings of Mary Most Holy can rightly be called a heaven-sent survival manual." To learn more, visit www.americaneedsfatima.org

Honors ...

Cont'd from Page 10

exceptional leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. It has been both an honor and a privilege working with these honor students."

Admission to the honors

program is based on academic performance, faculty recommendations and a required essay. Members can join the Laut Honors Program following their first semester at Wheeling University if they have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0, have a 3.3

average after their first academic year, and a subsequent 3.5 GPA through graduation.

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Welcome Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala in a special issue of The Catholic Spirit

Parishes, Catholic schools, and Catholic groups and organizations are invited to purchase ads of welcome and congratulations to our new bishop in the July 7 print edition of The Catholic Spirit. All of the proceeds help provide The Catholic Spirit free of charge to all Catholics in West Virginia. **The deadline to purchase ads is Friday, June 26.** Ad sizes and prices for black and white are below. For color, add \$100. We can create the ad for you or you are welcome to send in your own design.

Eighth page - \$100

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Full page - \$900

To purchase an ad, send e-mail to crowan@dwc.org with "Welcome ad" in the subject line.



Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Saturday, June 6: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 14: St. Matthew / Sacred Heart Mission, Point Pleasant, 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, June 20: St. Sebastian, Kingwood, 6 p.m.

Bishop Mark Brennan is pictured with young people who received the sacrament of confirmation at Assumption Church in Keyser.
Courtesy photo



A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend.

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'Magnífica Humanitas': La encíclica del Papa León sobre la IA advierte sobre la tentación de construir un futuro excluyendo a Dios

Por Courtney Mares

(OSV News) -- El Papa León XIV ha publicado su histórica encíclica sobre la inteligencia artificial "Magnífica Humanitas" este 25 de mayo, comparando el intento de construir un futuro de IA que excluye a Dios con la "Torre de Babel" y subrayando la necesidad de custodiar la dignidad humana que "corre el riesgo de verse eclipsada por nuevas formas de deshumanización".

"Este es el riesgo de la deshumanización --construir el futuro excluyendo a Dios y reduciendo al otro a un medio--, una tentación antigua y siempre nueva, que hoy también toma un rostro técnico", escribió el Papa León en su primera encíclica "Magnífica Humanitas: Sobre la custodia de la persona humana en el tiempo de la inteligencia artificial".

"En la era de la inteligencia artificial, en la que la dignidad humana corre el riesgo de verse eclipsada por nuevas formas de deshumanización, tenemos el deber urgente de permanecer profundamente humanos, custodiando con amor esa magnífica humanidad que se nos ha dado y revelado en plenitud en Cristo, y que ninguna máquina podrá jamás sustituir en su esplendor" dijo.

—El uso indebido de la IA comparado con la 'Torre de Babel'—

El Papa León da inicio a la primera encíclica de su pontificado diciendo que hoy la humanidad enfrenta una elección decisiva --"levantar una nueva torre de Babel o edificar la ciudad donde Dios y la humanidad habiten juntos". Usando el relato bíblico del Génesis, el Papa advierte contra el "síndrome de Babel": la idolatría del lucro que sacrifica a los débiles" y la pretensión de que todo, "incluso el misterio de la persona", puede traducirse en "datos y rendimientos".

"Pedir prudencia, controles rigurosos y, en ocasiones, también una ralentización en la adopción de la IA no significa estar en contra del progreso, sino ejercitar un cuidado responsable hacia la familia humana", escribió el Santo Padre.

—Desde la criptomoneda al 'Señor de los Anillos'—

El extenso documento papal está dividido en cinco capítulos y toca una gran variedad de temas relacionados con la IA, incluyendo el prospecto del desempleo masivo, el futuro de la educación, la protección de la libertad humana, el tiempo excesivo frente a las pantallas (en el caso de los jóvenes), las criptomonedas, las disparidades económicas, transhumanismo, ciberataques y la aplicación de los principios de la enseñanza social católica.

El Papa León dedica el último capítulo de su encíclica a el desarrollo y el uso de la IA en el ámbito bélico, los cuales "deben estar sujetos a las restricciones éticas más rigurosas", y a la construcción proactiva de la paz "que frenen la carrera armamentística tecnológica".

El pontífice estadounidense apuntó a Martin Luther King Jr., Santa Teresa de Calcuta, Dorothy Day, Santa Laura Montoya, San Maximiliano Kolbe, entre otros, como ejemplos que algunos "acontecimientos ayudan a ver que la historia puede cambiar cuando al menos un solo hombre o una sola mujer se toma realmente en serio la dignidad de todos".

En "Magnífica Humanitas", que significa "magnífica humanidad" en latín, el Papa hace un llamado a los cristianos a que no sean "espectadores resignados" o "simples comentaristas de las ruinas" sino que tomen un rol proactivo en construir el futuro al cultivar comunidad y relaciones en persona, educando a

los más jóvenes a amar la sabiduría, pasar tiempo con las personas empobrecidas y los que se sienten solos, ser la voz de la justicia, defender la verdad objetiva y tratar al mundo digital como "un nuevo continente por evangelizar".

"No nos atañe a nosotros dominar todas las mareas del mundo, sino hacer lo que está en nuestras manos por el bien de los días que nos ha tocado vivir, extirpando el mal en los campos que conocemos, y dejando a los que vendrán después una tierra limpia para la labranza", escribió el Papa, citando al libro de J.R.R. Tolkien "El Señor de los Anillos: el retorno del rey". Y agregó que "la civilización del amor no nace de un gesto único y espectacular, sino de una suma de fidelidades pequeñas y tenaces, que hacen frente a la deshumanización".

—Bajar el ritmo cuando todo se está acelerando—

En su encíclica, el Papa León dice que la idea de "una IA más moral" no es suficiente, si esta moral es decidida por unos pocos.

"Se necesita una política más presente, capaz de ralentizar donde todo acelera y de proteger los espacios en los que las comunidades pueden seguir participando e interrogándose", dijo.

El Santo Padre argumentó que "no podemos considerar a la IA como moralmente neutra" y subrayó que el discernimiento ético no puede ser limitado a "preguntarse si usamos un determinado sistema para un fin bueno o malo" sino "que debe interrogarse también sobre el modo en el que está diseñado y qué idea de persona y de sociedad queda inscrita en los datos y en los modelos que lo guían".

El Papa León añadió que la propiedad de los datos

Papa en la página 15

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al

304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está protegida. **Enlaces e información:** Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.

Papa ...

no debe ser confiada solamente al control privado y que los datos "no pueden ser vendidos o confiados a unos pocos", llamando por una reglamentación apropiada y pensamiento creativo "capaz de gestionarlos como uno de los bienes comunes o colectivos".

—El desempleo como 'mal grave' y 'calamidad social'—

El Papa León abordó el espectro del desempleo masivo debido a la adopción de la inteligencia artificial (IA), y dijo que esto sería "una verdadera calamidad social, lo que pone especialmente de relieve la responsabilidad del Estado". Citó a la encíclica sobre el trabajo humano de San Juan Pablo II, publicada en 1981, "Laborem Exercens", subrayando que su predecesor reconoció que el desempleo era "un mal grave". Y el Papa León añadió que exponer "a muchos a una situación de inactividad forzada, de ausencia de responsabilidades, de falta de compromiso y de estímulos cotidianos" podría llevar al "empobrecimiento humano y cultural".

"El objetivo de obtener mayores beneficios no puede justificar decisiones que sacrifiquen sistemáticamente el empleo, porque la persona humana es un fin y no un medio, y el orden económico debe permanecer subordinado a su dignidad y al bien común", dijo el Papa León.

"Sin decisiones valientes, surgen más pobreza y más desigualdades, con una multitud de excluidos rodeados de máquinas y sistemas automatizados que han ocupado su lugar", añadió.

—Dios creó a los seres humanos para la comunión, no la eficiencia—

El Papa León escribe que la IA promete eficiencia, pero los "nuevos modos" de trabajar no son necesariamente mejores, y describe cómo "contrariamente a los beneficios anunciados sobre la IA, los enfoques actuales de la tecnología pueden paradójicamente desespecializar a los trabajadores, someterlos a una vigilancia automatizada y relegarlos a tareas rígidas y repetitivas".

"Cuando la eficiencia se vuelve medida de valor, el ser humano es tentado a considerarse como un proyecto que debe optimizarse más que como una criatura llamada a la relación y a la comunión", dijo el Papa.

—La defensa de la verdad objetiva—

La verdad es uno de los temas principales de la encíclica del pontífice agustino. Dijo que frente a los flujos incesantes de información, opiniones, imágenes y algoritmos sofisticados que pueden influenciar decisiones, es imperativo cultivar "un corazón que ama la verdad, que desea lo justo más que los contenidos de mayor atractivo, que busca la sabiduría más que el impacto inmediato".

"La verdad que no debemos perder es la de Dios y la del ser humano, tal como Cristo nos la ha revelado. Es necesario abandonar una visión del hombre individualista y técnica", dijo.

Citando al Papa Benedicto XVI, añadió, "el hombre moderno tiene la errónea convicción de ser el único autor de sí mismo, de su vida y de la sociedad. Es una presunción fruto de la cerrazón egoísta en sí mismo".

El Papa subrayó que "la búsqueda de la verdad es un elemento esencial para la democracia" y que "el desinterés por la verdad conduce lenta pero inexorablemente hacia el totalitarismo".

Dijo que debemos "promover una ecología de la comunicación" en el establecimiento de normas públicas "que hagan más transparentes los criterios con los que se seleccionan y amplifican los contenidos y que protejan los datos personales". En el ámbito social y cultural, hizo un llamado al "fortalecimiento de los organismos intermedios, un periodismo serio y espacios de debate", y a la adquisición de más formación en el uso de herramientas digitales por parte de las familias y las escuelas y a la búsqueda por parte de las universidades a "la integración de los conocimientos".

"La primera tarea que nos corresponde es no demonizar ni idolatrar los medios, sino gestionarlos a partir de un punto fijo: la verdad es un bien común y no una propiedad de quienes tienen poder o visibilidad", puntualizó.

—Control social y la 'economía digital de la atención'—

El Papa León hizo un llamado a la "educación en la sobriedad digital" debido a las sutiles formas de adicción en la "economía digital de la atención" de hoy en día en que las plataformas y servicios digitales "están diseñados para captar el tiempo y la mirada de los usuarios" lo que debilita "la libertad interior".

Advirtió sobre el riesgo "del control social que la recopilación masiva de datos y el uso de sistemas algorítmicos hacen posible".

"Cuando cada gesto deja huellas --desplazamientos, compras, relaciones, preferencias-- se crea un poder nuevo: el de perfilar, prever y orientar los comportamientos, a menudo sin que las personas tengan plena conciencia de ello", escribió. "Si estos datos se utilizan para tomar decisiones que inciden en oportunidades concretas (acceso al crédito, selección de personal, servicios), existe el riesgo de socavar la libertad y discriminar a los más vulnerables".

—El Papa León XIII y la doctrina social católica—

El Papa XIV sitúa su reflexión sobre la era de la inteligencia artificial en el contexto de la tradición magisterial de la doctrina social de la Iglesia, a veces conocida como enseñanza social católica. El primer capítulo de la encíclica ofrece una visión general de la contribución de cada papa al magisterio social

de la Iglesia, desde el Papa León XIII hasta la actualidad, destacando las ideas clave que resultan especialmente relevantes hoy en día. El segundo capítulo provee definiciones de principios clave de la doctrina social de la Iglesia desde "el bien común" a la "subsidiariedad". El Papa Francisco y San Juan Pablo II son citados con frecuencia a lo largo de la encíclica.

El Papa León XIV firmó "Magnifica Humanitas" el 15 de mayo, coincidiendo con el 135.º aniversario de "Rerum Novarum", la encíclica social fundacional de 1891 del Papa León XIII sobre el trabajo y el capital, redactada durante la primera Revolución Industrial.

"Mientras las nuevas redes económicas y tecnológicas pueden generar exclusión, aislamiento y dependencias, la Iglesia, alimentada por la Eucaristía, está llamada a hacer visible otro tipo de medida, custodiando los vínculos, devolviendo la voz a los invisibles y orientando los procesos hacia la dignidad de las personas", dijo el Papa León XIV.

(Courtney Mares es editora del Vaticano para OSV News.)



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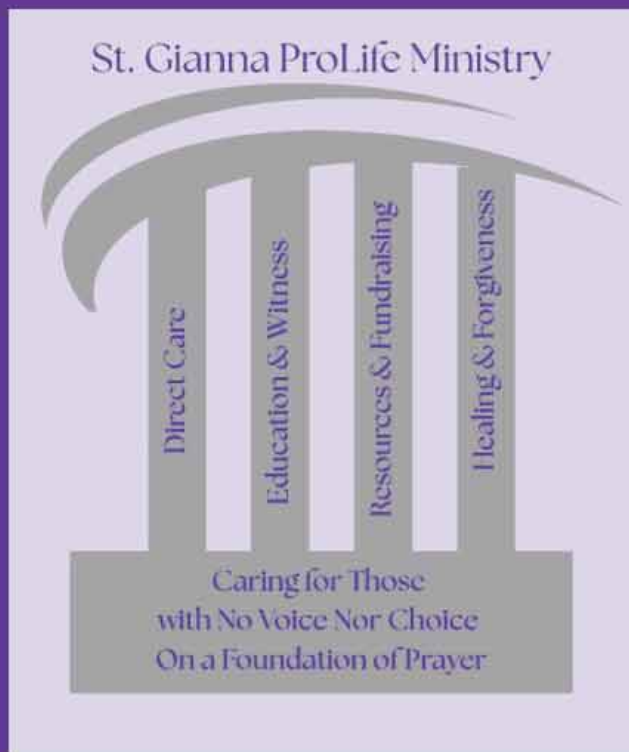
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WVU Medicine Center for Nursing Education Gains National Recognition for Its Early Impact

MORGANTOWN — The WVU Medicine Center for Nursing Education (CNE) has received initial accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) for its diploma nursing program, a milestone reached less than one year after welcoming its first cohort.

The five-year accreditation recognizes the program's strong foundation and early success, including its focus on student support. Reviewers highlighted the individualized attention and academic resources available to help students succeed.

"This accreditation speaks to the strength of this program and the need it is meeting," Albert L. Wright, Jr., president and CEO of the WVU Health System, said. "We are committed to expanding access to nursing education and removing barriers that often stand in the way of

students' ability to pursue their goals. This program is opening new doors, creating opportunities, and helping build the workforce our communities need."

Housed at the WVU Innovation Corporation in Morgantown, the WVU Medicine Center for Nursing Education is a hospital-based nursing school offering a 21-month diploma program. The curriculum combines hands-on clinical experience with one-on-one academic support to help students build skills and transition into practice.

The program is part of WVU Medicine's broader effort to strengthen the healthcare workforce by expanding access to education and creating clear pathways into nursing careers.

Building on its early success in Morgantown, WVU Medicine is working to expand the pro-

gram's reach, including plans to extend it into the Eastern Panhandle through a partnership with Berkeley County Schools, creating a new education hub and increasing opportunities for local students.

"We started this program to offer a quality education and eliminate barriers for nursing students in new and innovative ways," Tanya Rogers, Ed.D., M.S.N., R.N., C.N.E., assistant vice president of the WVU Medicine Center for Nursing Education, said. "I couldn't be prouder of the progress we have made in such a short period of time. Our team is deeply committed to every student and invests in their success each day. This milestone validates the outcomes our team and our students are achieving."

Students receive a full tuition waiver, free books, and additional support services in **See "Impact" on Page 20**

Newest Updates to
2026 QUO VADIS
DISCERNMENT RETREAT
Now: Sunday, June 28 - Wednesday, July 1
 Date change due to Bishop Menjivar-Ayala's
 Installation Mass on July 2, 2026.

Middle School Boys (6th - 8th) will be led by Deacon Dave Galvin and the trained staff of St. James the Greater Parish.

High School (9th - 12th) Boys will be led by Seminarian, Michael Tupta, with his fellow Seminarian brothers along with our DWC priests.

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Impact ...

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exchange for a three-year bedside employment commitment at a WVU Medicine hospital – an approach designed to reduce financial barriers while helping communities build the workforce they need.

The program has seen early success, including a 100 percent retention rate among enrolled students. It received provisional approval from the West Virginia Board of Registered Nurses in March 2024 and has since expanded.

Enrollment in Morgantown has been approved to increase from 24 to 48 students per cohort, with classes starting each August and January.

“The ever-increasing number of applicants and our expansion into the Martinsburg area demonstrate that many people are interested in pursuing careers in nursing, but they need support to do so,” Melanie Heuston, D.N.P., R.N., N.E.A.-B.C., chief nursing executive for the WVU Health System, said.

“As WVU Medicine continues to grow, it’s imperative that we have enough nurses to care for our patients. The expansion and increase of our class sizes will help to meet our mission to improve the health of all we serve.”

For more information about the WVU Medicine Center for Nursing Education, visit WVUMedicine.org/CNE.

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Interventional Cardiology



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A Mother's Determination

When Sarah's health began to decline, it quickly affected every part of her life. She had to leave her job due to ongoing illness and found work as a housekeeper so she could continue supporting her family. As a single mother of two, she balanced caring for her children with managing a serious medical condition that had gone undiagnosed for some time.

After months of uncertainty, Sarah finally received answers from a specialist. She underwent surgery, hopeful that it would improve her health and help her regain stability. Unexpected complications kept her hospitalized for several days, delaying her return home.

When Sarah did return, she was met with an urgent electric termination notice. She contacted the utility company, but there was little flexibility. With the risk of losing power, she knew she had to act quickly for the sake of her children.

Sarah called 211 and began reaching out to local organizations. Through Catholic Charities West Virginia, she was connected to a network of support. Working together with partner ministries and churches in her community, assistance came just in time to keep her electricity on.

In a moment of crisis, Sarah's determination, combined with the care of a compassionate community, helped her family remain safe and stable. Her story reflects the quiet strength so many carry and the difference that timely support can make.



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