

First encyclical of
Pope Leo XIV

Magnifica humanitas



On 15 May 1891, Pope Leo XIII published his encyclical *Rerum novarum*, which addressed working conditions and workers' rights in the industrial age.

135 years later, on 15 May 2026, Pope Leo XIV published his first encyclical, *Magnifica humanitas*, addressing the challenges of artificial intelligence.

Two texts of paramount importance for their respective eras.

On Monday 18 May 2026, the Holy See announced the publication of *Magnifica humanitas*, Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical devoted to artificial intelligence (AI). The text will be made public on 25 May.

In light of the widespread use of artificial intelligence and its consequences in today's world, the Catholic Church wishes to reaffirm the importance of the dignity of every human being. The encyclical *Magnifica humanitas* will address in detail the ethical issues raised by AI, through the lens of the Church's social teaching.

Last Saturday, 16 May, the Holy See also announced the creation of an Inter-Dicasterial Commission on Artificial Intelligence, which will be coordinated by Cardinal Michael Czerny, a Canadian and Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and will be composed of representatives from various dicasteries.

It is worth recalling that from the very first week of his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV expressed a keen interest in the issue of artificial intelligence and the dignity of work, describing AI as a "new industrial revolution". He also stated that he had chosen the name Leo XIV partly as a tribute to Pope Leo XIII, author of the social encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, written at the time of the great industrial revolution.

Over the past year, the Holy Father has stepped up his interventions, speeches, messages and interviews on artificial intelligence. In his view, this tool must remain at the service of the common good, and must above all not become a means of generating 'deep-

fakes' that can deceive – videos, images and audio recordings created entirely by AI.

He has on several occasions given advice to young people on the proper use of this technology, urging them to be vigilant in doing their homework. "Use AI in such a way that, if it were to disappear tomorrow, you would still know how to think," he said. The important thing is to be able to think, create, act for oneself and form genuine friendships. The Pope also encouraged priests not to use AI to prepare their homilies, and urged the media to preserve "human voices and faces".

AI is therefore a tool intended to serve humans, not to replace them. "AI lacks an essential human element: it will not be able to distinguish between good and evil. Nor will it marvel with genuine admiration at the beauty of divine creation," he added on this subject.

Source: <https://fr.zenit.org/2026/05/19/lencyclique-magnifica-humanitas-sera-publiee-cc-25-mai/>

You have probably been following the trial between Elon Musk and Sam Altman, two individuals who were at the forefront of AI development. The jury did not even consider the basic argument which claimed (1) that AI threatened the very existence of humanity and (2) that Musk had been misled and was claiming \$1.5 billion.

After just two hours of deliberation, the jury simply stated that Musk had waited too long to initiate legal proceedings due to the statute of limitations.

It is telling that few people dare to address the profound issues surrounding AI.


Thank you to Pope Leo XVI for his courage.

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