

Magnifica Humanitas and the Catholic Business Leader

Mark Coming · The Saint John Leadership Network · June 26, 2026



Presentation Overview

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Part 1: Understanding Magnifica Humanitas

Overview of Pope Leo XIV's encyclical, major themes, and Catholic anthropology in the age of AI.

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Part 2: Conclusions of Magnifica Humanitas

Technology, truth, freedom, human dignity, and leadership as moral vocation.

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Part 3: AI in the Modern World

Contemporary examples of AI reshaping work, government, formation, and economics.

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Part 4: Practical Guidance for Catholic Business Leaders

Principles for faithful leadership, prudence, responsibility, and building organizations ordered toward human flourishing.

Part 1 - Understanding Magnifica Humanitas

A Catholic reflection on artificial intelligence, human dignity, truth, and moral responsibility – Pope Leo XIV's encyclical for the age of AI.



Structure of Magnifica Humanitas

Chapter I

- **Human Dignity and the Image of God** *The Christian understanding of the human person*
- *Human dignity as foundational principle.*

Chapter II

Technology and Moral Responsibility

- *Moral accountability in technological systems,*
- *Wisdom, and prudence in innovation.*

Chapter III

- **Truth, Freedom, and Formation** – *Manipulation, information, and formation*
- *Freedom ordered toward truth.*

Chapter IV

Economics, Labor, and the Common Good

- *Dignity of labor and subsidiarity*
- *Economic concentration of technocracy.*

Chapter V

Leadership and Christian Hope

- *Leadership as moral vocation,*
- *prudence, courage, and hope.*



Chapter 1 - Human Dignity and the Image of God

- Technology must serve persons rather than replace them
- AI raises profound anthropological questions
- The human person cannot be reduced to:
 - data
 - utility
 - productivity
 - algorithmic prediction

❑ The human person cannot be reduced to data, utility, productivity, or algorithmic prediction.

Technology and Moral Responsibility

Core Principle

- Technology is not morally neutral.
- Human beings remain morally accountable for the systems they build and deploy.

What This Means

- Wisdom must guide innovation
- Efficiency is not the highest good
- Technological capability alone cannot determine moral legitimacy





"All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them." – Galileo Galilei

Truth, Freedom, and Formation

Algorithms increasingly shape **attention, desire, perception, and habits of thought** at massive scale. Freedom requires moral and intellectual formation to resist manipulation.

The Threat

Truth becomes vulnerable amid misinformation, manipulation, and algorithmic amplification.

The Standard

Human flourishing depends on the ability to seek truth freely and rationally.

The Goal

Technological systems should strengthen wisdom rather than exploit human weakness.

Economics, Labor, and the Common Good



Dignity of Labor

Labor possesses dignity beyond economic productivity. Workers are persons, not merely organizational inputs.



Subsidiarity at Risk

Technocracy threatens subsidiarity. AI may dangerously centralize economic, informational, and social power.



The Common Good

Economic systems must serve persons rather than merely efficiency. The common good must remain central.





Leadership and Christian Hope

Leadership is a **moral vocation** requiring prudence and courage. Hope rejects both fear and naïve optimism – the future remains open to moral action.

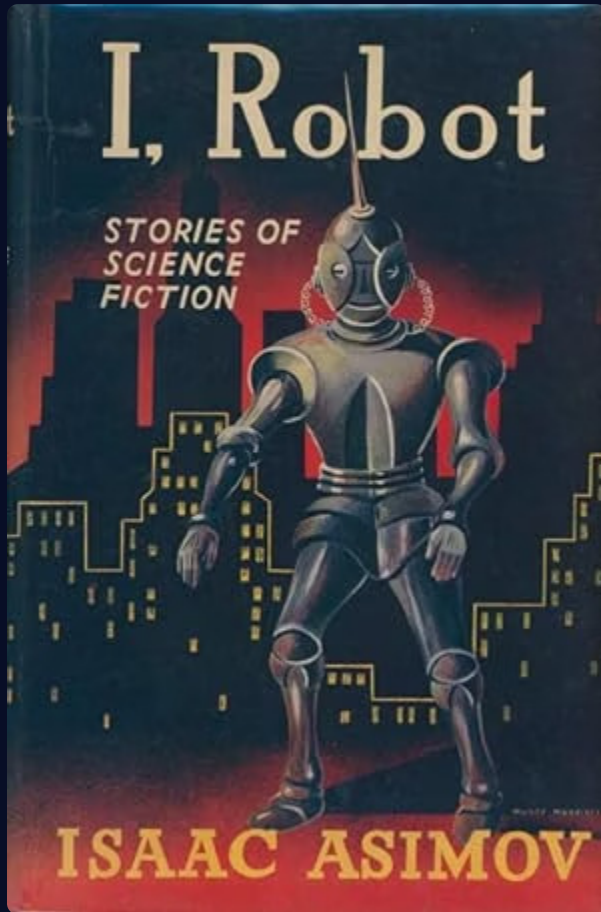
Catholic leaders are called to:

- exercise stewardship
- defend human dignity
- protect truth
- and serve the common good

❏ Technology does not eliminate human responsibility. The future is shaped by the choices leaders make today.

Part 2 - Conclusions of Magnifica Humanitas





The Human Person Cannot Be Reduced to a Machine

Human dignity exceeds utility. Persons are not data points. No matter how sophisticated AI becomes, it cannot replace **conscience, prudence, or moral judgment**.

Anthropology determines ethics – how we understand the human person shapes every moral conclusion we draw about technology.

What AI Cannot Replace

- Conscience
- Prudence
- Moral judgment
- Intrinsic dignity

Technology Must Remain Ordered Toward the Common Good

- Innovation requires moral direction
- Technology must strengthen:
 - persons
 - families
 - communities
 - and social trust
- Efficiency alone cannot define human flourishing
- Technological systems should support:
 - participation
 - responsibility
 - and human dignity
- Excessive centralization creates risks to:
 - freedom
 - subsidiarity
 - and democratic institutions
- Leadership requires stewardship rather than mere optimization
- The common good must guide technological development





Truth, Work, and Freedom Must Be Protected

Truth

Manipulation threatens authentic freedom.

- Truth is increasingly vulnerable within algorithmic systems
- Personalized media environments distort reality
- AI-driven information ecosystems reshape what we know and believe

Work

Work possesses dignity beyond productivity, efficiency, and economic utility.

- Human beings must not become psychologically conditioned
- People must not be behaviorally engineered
- Persons must not become economically disposable

Freedom

Freedom depends upon moral formation, truthful information, and rational judgment.

- Technological systems should cultivate wisdom and virtue
- Responsibility and authentic participation must be fostered
- Human flourishing requires protecting meaningful human agency

Leadership in the AI Age Is a Moral Vocation

The AI age ultimately tests moral vision, civilizational priorities, and the character of leadership itself.

Moral courage may require:

- restraint
- ethical resistance
- and long-term thinking

Wisdom matters more than:

- speed
- capability
- or competitive pressure

Catholic leadership requires:

- stewardship
- accountability
- service
- and responsibility toward the common good





The Central Questions of the AI Age



Will humanity preserve wisdom, truth, freedom, responsibility and human dignity?



Will truth survive manipulation?



Will the dignity of persons remain central?



What kind of societies and human beings do we aspire to become?



Technology ultimately reflects moral vision. The answers depend on the choices leaders make today.



Part 3 - AI in the Modern World

Contemporary examples of artificial intelligence reshaping work, government, formation, and economics.

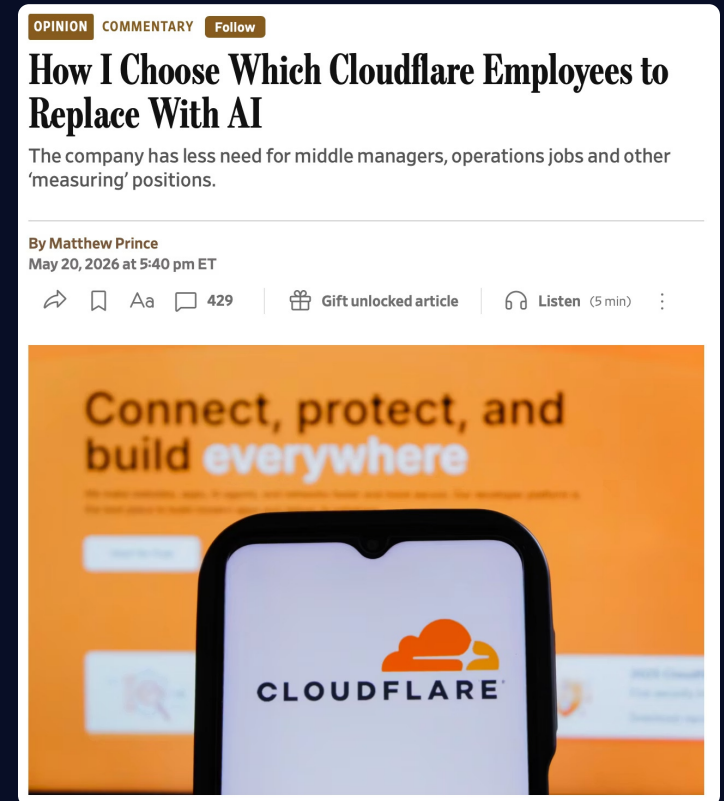
AI and the Dignity of Work - Cloudflare

In May 2026, Cloudflare CEO Matthew Prince publicly discussed replacing significant portions of the workforce with AI-driven efficiencies.

Cloudflare plans to reduce approximately **20% of its workforce** through AI-driven efficiencies even while projecting roughly 30% annual growth.

CEO Matthew Prince framed "builders" and "sellers" as the primary drivers of organizational value, reducing all other workers as "measurers"

"Measurers" are increasingly evaluated according to automation potential, replaceability, and scalability – reflecting a broader trend of evaluating labor primarily through efficiency.





Magnifica Humanitas and the Dignity of Work

Workers Are Persons

Human labor possesses dignity beyond economic efficiency. Workers are persons, not merely organizational inputs.

Profitability Is Not Enough

Profitability alone cannot define moral leadership. Technological progress must serve authentic human flourishing.

The Risk of Efficiency

Efficiency without moral vision risks reducing persons to utility – a direct contradiction of Catholic anthropology.

AI, Government Power, and Anthropic

Three factors led to government escalation:

Anthropic resisted military and government uses of advanced AI

Leaders warned against letting competition override ethical responsibility

This created tensions with the U.S. government and defense institutions.

Result: The dispute has escalated into significant political and economic consequences for Anthropic.





There Must Be Moral Limits on Technological Power



Moral Law Prevails

Technology must remain subordinate to moral law. Human responsibility cannot be delegated to machines.



No Exemptions

National power does not eliminate ethical limits. Both states and corporations remain accountable to moral truth.



Restraint Is Necessary

Moral restraint is necessary even amid geopolitical competition. Capability does not confer permission.



AI, Social Media, and the Formation of the Young

Countries are increasingly restricting social media access for minors amid growing evidence of addictive algorithms, AI-driven manipulation, and psychological harm.

Australia, France, Denmark, United Kingdom, Greece, Spain, Canada (introduced legislation).

The United States has not yet adopted a comprehensive national framework comparable to several emerging international approaches.



Children are especially vulnerable to algorithmic influence – and the policy gap leaves them exposed.

Freedom, Formation, and Human Flourishing

The Problem

Freedom requires moral formation, not merely unlimited choice. AI systems increasingly shape attention, desire, and behavior – especially among the young.

The Standard

Technology should strengthen authentic human flourishing. Formation – moral, intellectual, and spiritual – is the necessary counterweight to algorithmic influence.



EXCLUSIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Follow

Microsoft's Satya Nadella: We Can't Let AI Giants Eat the Economy

In interview, Microsoft's CEO offers a blistering critique of AI power balance and calls for earning society's permission

By [Bradley Olson](#) and [Tina Li](#)

June 21, 2026 at 9:00 pm ET

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Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella DENIS BALIBOUSE/REUTERS

AI Wealth and the New Concentration of Power

AI investment has fueled one of the largest technology-driven market expansions in modern history. Economic power is increasingly concentrated among a small number of firms, dependent on **massive computing infrastructure, proprietary data, and capital concentration.**

"[There is a danger of AI giants] eating the economy." – Satya Nadella



∞ Meta

ANTHROPIC



Subsidiarity, the Common Good, and Economic Justice



Concentration Is a Danger

Magnifica Humanitas warns against excessive concentration of technological power that undermines the common good.



Subsidiarity Resists Centralization

Economic systems must remain ordered toward the common good. Broad participation in economic life is essential for human flourishing.



Innovation Must Be Guided

Innovation must be guided by justice, solidarity, and moral responsibility – not competitive advantage alone.





The Emerging Moral Challenge of the AI Age

AI is not merely a technological challenge. The deeper challenge is **moral and civilizational**. Leadership decisions made today will shape the future of society. Human dignity must remain central amid technological change.



Part 4 - Practical Guidance for Catholic Business Leaders

Leading faithfully and prudently in the age of artificial intelligence.

Leadership Begins with a Right Understanding of the Human Person

→ Evaluate AI by Its Impact on Human Dignity

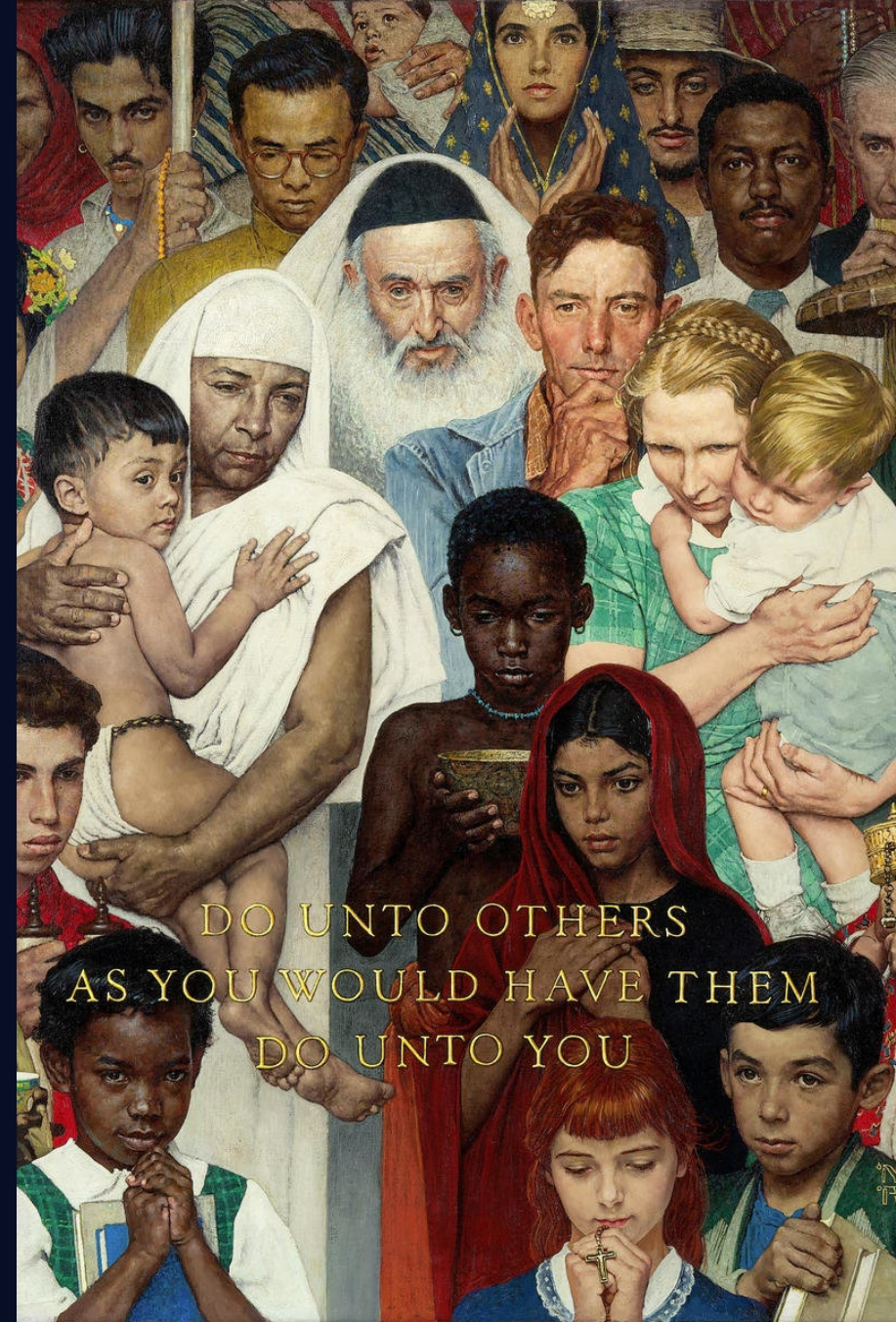
Avoid reducing workers to replaceable economic functions. Preserve meaningful human contribution where possible.

→ Ask the Right Question

Ask not only "*Can we?*" but also "*Should we?*" – the moral question precedes the technical one.

→ Efficiency Is Not the Highest Good

Recognize that optimization and profitability are legitimate but subordinate goods.





Preserve Human Judgment and Responsibility

The Principle

Moral responsibility belongs to persons, not systems. AI should assist judgment – never replace conscience.

In Practice

- Maintain meaningful human oversight in critical decisions
- Avoid overreliance on algorithmic decision-making
- Preserve accountability within leadership structures

Build Organizations Ordered Toward Human Flourishing

Strengthen Relationships

Use technology to strengthen rather than weaken human relationships within and beyond the organization.

Protect Truth and Trust

Protect truth, trust, and institutional integrity. Consider AI's impact on families, communities, and organizational culture.

Cultivate Virtue

Build cultures that encourage virtue and responsibility. Measure success beyond profitability alone.





Form Conscience Intentionally

Technical expertise alone is insufficient for leadership. Catholic leaders must cultivate **moral and spiritual formation** alongside professional competence.

01

Study the Tradition

Catholic social teaching, moral theology, and philosophy provide essential frameworks for navigating AI.

02

Develop Habits of Prudence

Cultivate reflection, discernment, and deliberate moral reasoning as daily leadership practices.

03

Grow in Moral Clarity

Moral clarity becomes increasingly important as technology grows more powerful and decisions more consequential.



Lead with Prudence, Courage, and Hope

Technological change does not eliminate moral responsibility. Catholic leaders are called to exercise **prudent stewardship** – courage may require resisting unhealthy incentives or pressures.

- ❑ Hope rejects both fear and naïve optimism. The future of AI will be shaped by the moral choices leaders make today.

A Summary of Practical Principles

**1. LEADERSHIP GROUNDED
IN A RIGHT UNDERSTANDING
OF THE HUMAN PERSON**

**2. HUMAN JUDGMENT &
MORAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

**3. ORGANIZATIONS ORDERED
TOWARD HUMAN FLOURISHING**

**4. CONSCIENCE FORMED
BY CATHOLIC TEACHING**

**5. LEAD WITH PRUDENCE,
COURAGE, & HOPE**

Final Reflection

“

*"Let us remain faithful to the truth!...
pursue wisdom rather than immediate
results."*

– **Pope Leo XIV, Magnifica Humanitas**

”

“

*"Do not conform yourselves to this
age but be transformed by the
renewal of your mind..."*

– **Romans 12:2**

”

“

"Test everything; retain what is good."

– **1 Thessalonians 5:21**

”

Key Takeaways

1

Anthropology First

How we understand the human person determines every ethical conclusion about AI.

2

Moral Accountability

Technology is not morally neutral. Leaders remain accountable for the systems they build and deploy.

3

Common Good

Innovation must be ordered toward the common good – not efficiency, power, or profit alone.

4

Formation Matters

Conscience, prudence, and moral formation are essential leadership capacities in the AI age.



The Future Remains Open to Moral Action

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"The future of AI will be shaped by the moral choices leaders make today." –
Magnifica Humanitas