

Message of Pope Leo for World Communications Day 2026

Questions for Reflection

Introduction: the Person

1. What strikes you in pope Leo's description of the human person in the introduction of this letter? Is there a phrase that particularly touches you or challenges your perception of what it means to be human?
2. How does a better understanding of what we are as humans help us make a more discerning and positive use of technologies which simulate "human voices and faces, wisdom and knowledge, awareness and responsibility, empathy and friendship"?
3. How does AI and its potential human like-ness affect how people perceive *what* is human? How does a christian anthropology (understanding of the human person and its origins) compare to this view?

Creativity

4. Have you heard of some uses of AI which you've found alarming, or have you had negative experiences with AI?
5. Do you have examples of positive and helpful uses of AI, or have had positive experiences with it?
6. How do you think the use of AI could stifle our creative thinking?
7. What are the limits to AI's content-producing capacities? Why do you suppose we need to keep doing our own human thinking and creative work?

Dangers

8. How do you suppose "friendly chat-boxes" could erode our capacity for authentic, positive and realistic relationships? Why can chatting with a bot "feel" so nice, and how is this potentially dangerous?
9. "Without embracing otherness, there can be neither relationship nor friendship" Do you agree with this statement of Pope Leo? Why? Could you illustrate it with an example?
10. How do you perceive that AI and algorithms can create unrealistic views of the world? And what hidden motives could drive these distortions?
11. Even if distorted views or narratives are perhaps unintentional, how can they affect us, or those around us?
12. Where do you go to when you want to be very sure of having correct information, or to verify the claims of AI?

Positive Action

13. What are the safeguards you see which are in place to protect people from the negative effects of AI? Do you perceive a need for more of these? How can we make those needs known?
14. What are your own responsibility as an AI user- or as one who is faced, willing or unwilling, with AI-generated information and content? How do we practice and how can we encourage a discerning use of these technologies?
15. What could promoting "media, information and AI literacy" look like? What could be important areas of focus in an AI literacy program?
16. Why is the aim of current technologies that "battle for a few extra seconds of attention at all cost"? What christian values can counter this attitude?
17. What might "informed and responsible digital citizenship" look like for you? What do you feel the expression implies?
18. How can digital literacy joined with humanistic and cultural education assist us in a more discerning use of technology? Why does pope Leo hint that this is an urgent work to be done?
19. The synodal process puts great emphasis on listening to each individual in their uniqueness. How does this approach compare with the way AI makes use of 'statistical probability'? Which do you think gives more realistic data for decision-making? Which would yield more humane and compassionate solutions?
20. What do you "take home" from this letter?

On the personal level

21. Do you perceive your experience with technology has changed since the widespread use of AI? Does it affect how you use your cell phone, tablet or computer?; how you browse the internet or approach the news?; your use of social media?
22. How do you feel about AI-generated text or images? Have you had moments where you were surprised to learn something was AI-generated? Are you able to recognize certain signs of content being AI-generated?