Active Nonviolence Corner
November 2026
Perspectives on Pope Leo's Magnifica Humanitas (Magnificent Humanity)



For my thoughts are not your thoughts and your ways are not my ways, declares Yahweh. For the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Isaiah 55: 8-9

Overview

Pope Leo XIV presented his first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas on May 25, 2026. Of historical importance, this papal letter outlining the church's perspective on Artificial Intelligence (AI) was released on the 135th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical. That work, Rerum Novarum (Of New Things), addressed the effects of the Industrial Revolution on human dignity in his day.



Perspectives

Pope Leo XIV warned that AI is a profound moral challenge that must be ‘disarmed’ from the logic of corporate monopoly, labor displacement and autonomous warfare.

According to Kim Daniels, who led a dialogue of Catholic leaders at Georgetown University, Magnifica Humanitas highlights three principles concerning the development and governance of AI and deserve attention: human dignity, the dignity of work, and the care for the vulnerable.

During the Vatican Launch event for Magnifica Humanitas, Pope Leo XIV was joined by Chris Olah, co-founder of Anthropic, an American artificial intelligence public benefit corporation. Mr. Olah said, “We need moral voices that the incentives cannot bend.” Georgetown University dialogue report



Moving Our Feet

Pope Leo calls for each of us to do our part in our local settings.

The need to disarm words
Our words have power, and we have the responsibility to use them peacefully. Nonviolent communication is a skill we can practice daily.

Building peace through justice
"If you want peace, work for Justice." - Pope Paul VI, 1972 World Day of Peace address
Locally, support organizations that work for justice.

Adopting the perspective of victims
It is important to consider this topic with a humanity over profit perspective. There are many non-profit organizations that help those people that have been pushed to the boundaries.

Cultivating a healthy realism
AI in itself is a created entity that is neither evil nor good. We can combat fear with knowledge from a variety of reputable sources.

Reviving dialogue
The Church has challenged us to consider important social topics with the lens of synodality. Our parish has embraced and taught this collaborative

communication skill in our GIFT program recently. How can we use synodality as we learn more about AI?

The necessity of diplomacy and multilateralism
Conflict will never lead to kindness. Be diligent in choosing what we say in person or post in social media.

Praying and hoping
We pray with Pope Leo for a peace that is both "unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering."



Wondering where to start? Previous Active Nonviolence (ANV) Corner content has addressed organizations that work for justice, focused on marginalized groups, and advocated for peace and nonviolence. An Archive of past ANV Corner Posts can be found by scrolling to the bottom of the ANV Corner webpage.



Prayer

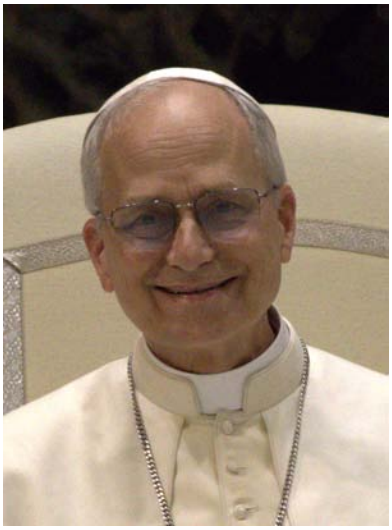
God Our Creator, You are the Great Inventor of Everything, the only One Who creates out of nothing things that did not exist before; Who speaks, and the universe bursts into being to do Your bidding.

Our most impressive creative acts are just a rearranging of Your handiwork, an imitation of Your sacred ordering. We puff our chests and celebrate our feat—toddlers whose blocks faintly echo the Taj Mahal. But You don't scorn or scoff at us. Like a proud parent, You celebrate when our building enriches Your world, and correct when our tower twists Your divine design out of order.

O Divine Orderer, teach us our place in Your kingdom's pattern. Direct our use of technology to build up others and point to Your good design. May we seek in every work to reflect You, never to rival You, Our Matchless King of Creation. Amen.

From The Pour Over - 9/19/2026

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In light of Pope Leo's surgery for lung cancer on 10/13/2026, let us pray for his peace and recovery.

A Prayer for Pope Leo's Recovery

God, at the very dawn of creation,
you breathed upon the waters,
making them the wellspring of creation.

In those same times,
after your divine breath entered into Adam's lungs,
you gave life to all humanity.

When your Son, Jesus, died on the Cross,
He offered his very last breath to you, his heavenly Father.
After the Resurrection, when you breathed new life into your Son,
He, in turn, breathed on his disciples and gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In our time, that Holy Spirit guided the cardinals in their election of Pope Leo XIV.
Now we turn to you and ask you to fill his injured lungs with that same Holy Spirit, making him strong and healthy, and removing any trace of illness.

As Leo faces treatment, give him all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially fortitude.
Guide the actions of his doctors, nurses and caregivers,
giving them the Spirit's gifts as well, especially wisdom and knowledge.

Finally, help your Son's Vicar, and our Pope, Leo, trust in you,
Both now in his time of illness, during his treatment and after his recovery.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Amen.

Prayer by James Martin, S.J., Editor at Large, America Magazine