

The Fatima Faithful newsletter is published once a month and is available in the bulletin, on our website, and accessible through Facebook. Let us know what you think! Email newsletter@ourladyoffatima.org with suggestions and pictures. The Newsletter Team: Vicki Johnson, Angie Feltz and Guest Columnists.

Take a Closer Look at “I’m With Him”

To love truly and honestly, we have to move outside of the black hole of our egotism, to resist the centripetal force that compels one to assume the attitude of self-protection.

When you attempt something new, something different knowing that your choice came from a Holy Spirit inspiration, do you do so with a strong conviction that “*even if this goes poorly*, literally nothing is going to stop me from following HIM” in this moment? Do you feel zero fear when you are walking behind the King overtly, directly? Chris Stefanek noted that ‘a Eucharistic procession sums up all of evangelization in the most tangible terms, doesn’t it?’

We’re all just part of the crowd that’s been walking behind Him for 2,000 years, even when we might encounter hostility from a culture that doesn’t want Him...we keep walking...and our response is simply, “I’m with Him.” Is that true for you? He went on to note:

When I love and serve, I want the world to know it’s because “I’m with Him.” When I’m faithful to my Church and family even when it’s hard, it’s because “I’m with Him.”

Have you or a loved one encountered a situation where being “with him” meant you would pay a price that you never expected? Have you encouraged a friend to ‘do the right thing’ because it was the right thing even if there was a chance your friendship would forever be changed and not in a good way? Have you ever wanted to help someone close to you know how much they were loved by God only to be told, “you need to stop pushing your religion on others, it’s totally unwelcome.” Jesus experienced all of that and more and walking in the ‘dust of their rabbi’, the Apostles not only followed, they led others to the joy and immense treasure of “I’m with Him!” And when I find myself in a culture that’s forgotten God...and I’m pressured to compromise, or find myself canceled, “I’m still with him.” Remembering how he put himself out there gives me courage to do the same.’

An Invitation for This Summer: Reading *Magnifica Humanitas* as a Family—Fr Renzo

We live in a fascinating age. Every day, new artificial intelligence tools emerge that can write texts, create images, answer questions, and even perform tasks that once seemed uniquely human. For some, these advances represent great opportunities; for others, they raise concerns and uncertainty. In the midst of this reality, Pope Leo XIV offers a profound and accessible reflection in his first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*. Although the document discusses artificial intelligence, it is not a technical text nor is it written only for specialists. At its heart, it is a reflection on something far more important: the human person. The central question running throughout the encyclical is both simple and urgently relevant for our time: **What does it mean to remain truly human in an age increasingly shaped by technology?**

Pope Leo XIV acknowledges the tremendous potential of scientific and technological progress. The Church is not opposed to innovation; on the contrary, she has always recognized knowledge as a gift from God. Yet the Holy Father invites us to ask whether we are using technology to serve the human person or whether, little by little, we are allowing the human person to become subordinate to technology. The encyclical reminds us of a fundamental truth that may seem obvious but is often forgotten: a machine can process information, but it cannot love. It can perform extraordinary calculations, but it cannot possess a moral conscience. It can imitate emotions, but it cannot experience compassion. It can generate responses, but it cannot build authentic human relationships. For this reason, the Pope insists that human dignity can never be reduced to data, statistics, or levels of productivity. Every person possesses infinite worth because he or she is created in the image and likeness of God. This conviction, which lies at the heart of the Christian faith, becomes especially important in a culture that often measures people according to their usefulness, performance, or success. One of the most compelling themes of the document is its reflection on work.

Automation and artificial intelligence are transforming the workplace at an unprecedented pace. In response to this reality, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that work is much more than a source of income. It is a way of participating in God’s creative activity, developing our talents, and contributing to the common good. Therefore, every technological advance must remain at the service of the human person and never the other way around. Another particularly timely aspect of the

encyclical concerns the question of truth. Today we receive enormous amounts of information through social media, digital platforms, and automated systems. Yet having more information does not necessarily mean possessing greater wisdom. The Pope warns against the danger of living in a culture where it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish truth from manipulation. For this reason, he emphasizes the need to form a critical conscience capable of discernment, reflection, and an honest search for truth. The encyclical also addresses themes related to peace, justice, and ethical responsibility in the development of new technologies. Without resorting to alarmism, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that every innovation must be directed toward the common good and the protection of human dignity. Perhaps the most beautiful message of the document, however, is found in its theological foundation. The encyclical reminds us that the human person is unique because he or she has been created by love and for love. Artificial intelligence is a human creation; the human person is God’s creation. Technologies are instruments; persons are ends in themselves. No algorithm will ever replace the human capacity to love, forgive, hope, suffer with others, or open oneself to transcendence. For all these reasons, *Magnifica Humanitas* is highly recommended reading for this summer. It is not simply an opportunity to study a papal document; it is an invitation to reflect together on the major challenges facing our families, our young people, and our society. Perhaps this could become a meaningful family project in the weeks ahead: reading a few chapters together, discussing them around the dinner table, sharing questions, and reflecting on how technology shapes our daily lives. We often talk about smartphones, social media, and artificial intelligence, yet we rarely pause to consider what it means to remain truly human amid these rapid changes. Pope Leo XIV invites us to recover the ability to think, discern, and contemplate. In a culture that constantly encourages us to consume information, this encyclical reminds us of the importance of cultivating wisdom. Summer offers a wonderful opportunity to discover this important document. Perhaps, by the end of its reading, we will realize that the most important question is not what machines will be able to do in the future, but rather **what kind of people we want to become**. And that is a conversation worth having in every family, community, and believing heart.

Middle School Retreat



Contributions for the Diocesan Food Drive from OLOF



Fr. Daniel Cooper



End of May Rosary Potluck



Fr Joe Austin Bible and Breakfast Farewell



Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession



AI Comes at a Cost - Use It With Care by Mary Cawthorn

It is almost impossible to go through a day without encountering some form of Artificial Intelligence (AI). It helps us drive our cars, use our phones, answer e-mails, and much more. At its best, it can be a great convenience to everyday life. It can increase productivity and advance scientific research. It can get us to the moon and back! Despite the great good that can be accomplished with the help of AI, it is not a panacea. Pope Leo just released *Magnifica Humanitas*, an encyclical addressing the need for caution while using and developing AI. He (and many others) warn of adverse consequences such as job insecurity, manipulation of information, privacy violations, ideological bias, and autonomous weapons. In the document, he teaches that no machine can replace the God-given magnificence of the human person. He warns that AI tempts us to see human limitations as “a deficit to be corrected” instead of seeing those limitations as the necessary means for growth and greater communion with God.

Besides the danger to our humanity and our relationships with God and other people, AI poses a threat to our environment. The gigantic data centers that train and run AI consume enormous amounts of electricity and water. A data center houses servers, data storage drives and network equipment. It runs 24/7 and must be kept cool with the use of chilled water. By the end of 2026 the electricity consumption of these data centers is expected to reach 1,050-Terawatt hrs, making them the 5th highest electricity consumer in the world, ranking between the countries of Japan and Russia. For every kilowatt hour of electricity used, the centers consume 2 liters of water for cooling. These centers dump millions of tons of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, use scarce water supplies, create both noise and waste pollution for local communities, and drive up the cost of electricity and water for residential consumers. Because AI is inherent in so many of the devices we use, it is difficult to live life without it. We can minimize how much we use, though. A few simple steps will lessen the environmental impact and help preserve our humanity. 1) Don't get on the internet unless you have a specific purpose for being there. Aimless scrolling increases the likelihood of encountering AI generated ads, pop-ups, etc.; 2) Look for answers through web searches, not AI queries. An AI query uses 5-7x as much electricity as a simple web search. 3) Resist the urge to create and watch AI generated images. Images use much more electricity than text; 4) Don't click on the AI overview that appears with emails and searches; 5) For the more tech savvy users the AI function can be turned off. October 2025 Consumer Reports article, “How to Turn Off AI Tools Like Gemini, Apple Intelligence, Copilot, and More” can walk you through it. AI is part of our lives now, whether we like it or not. A little thought while on the internet, however, can minimize the downside, while still allowing us to enjoy its benefits.



Saint of the Month by Marvin Sellers

The Apostle to the Apostles is the title given to Mary Magdalene by Saint Thomas Aquinas. Her name comes from her hometown of Magdala, a fishing village on the western shore of Lake Tiberias. In Luke chapter 8, he tells of Jesus going from town to town preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God, the 12 disciples were with Jesus and some of the women he had healed of evil spirits and infirmities and were serving them. Among the women was Mary from whom seven demons came out. Mary is there with the Lord at Golgotha, she is with Joseph of Arimathea as they place the body of Jesus in the tomb, and at the resurrection she found the stone rolled away. She tells Peter and John who run to the tomb and find the Lord missing. The disciples return home and she stays at the tomb in tears. Her disbelief turns to faith when she sees two angels and asks if they know where Jesus body was taken. She sees the Lord, mistaking him for a gardener. Jesus asks her why she's crying, she says if you have taken him, tell me where he is and I'll remove him. Jesus calls her by name and she recognizes him at once. She calls him Master and the Lord tells her not to touch him because he hasn't ascended to the Father yet. He tells her to tell his brothers that he is ascending to my Father and your Father, My God and your God. Mary then goes to the disciples and tells them that she has seen the Lord. Mary is the first woman to proclaim him overcoming death. She announces the message of Easter, she proved her love for him by standing at the foot of the cross with his Mother and John the apostle. She didn't deny him, or run away as the other disciples did, but remained close to him in every moment, up to and including the tomb. Her feast day is July 22nd. She is the Patroness of converts, repentant sinners, sexual temptations, pharmacists, tanners, and women.



Spotlight on the Sisters of Life

The Sisters of Life are women who are in love with Love – Love incarnate, crucified, and Risen – and captivated by the truth of the beauty of every human person, created in God's image and likeness.

Like other Catholic religious Sisters, they've made the decision to leave behind what the world offers to give their whole lives to God by professing vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. That means they don't personally own anything; they don't get married; and they freely surrender to lives of obedience. Thus, they are set free to love in a universal way, and commit wholeheartedly to the mission Jesus entrusts as the Sisters live in community with one another.

The Sisters of Life are a contemplative/active Roman Catholic community of women religious, who profess the three traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and a fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. They vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of every human life. As spiritual mothers living in the heart of the Church, they experience the threats to human dignity and life all the more deeply. So, they pray, fast and serve.

Founded by Cardinal John O'Connor in New York in 1991, their Order received formal approbation as a religious institute in 2004, under Cardinal Edward Egan. The Sisters of Life can be found in the [Arch]dioceses of New York, Albany, Bridgeport, Philadelphia, Denver, Phoenix, Washington, D.C., and Toronto, Canada. Their missions include serving women who are vulnerable to abortion,

giving them the support and resources to be able to choose life for themselves and their children; hosting weekend retreats; evangelization; outreach to college students; and helping women who have suffered after abortion to encounter the mercy and healing of Jesus Christ.

Entrusting themselves completely to the Lord of Life, their lives are committed to the protection of human life and to the promotion of new life in Christ, acknowledging the goodness of every person, and sharing the gift of God's abundant mercy with all they meet. In this way, they seek to help reveal to each person their own innate goodness, the particular love God has for them, and invite them to something greater: a life of truth, joy, and hope.

For several years someone from the Order has been invited to speak at the Seek college youth conferences; Word on Fire's Good News Conferences. They were among the Orders at the National Eucharist Congress in Indianapolis where Sr. Bethany Madonna was one of the speakers. New York also had a Eucharistic Congress where Sr. Mary Grace spoke. Two of their initiatives to reach into the hearts of young and old alike are the Sisters of Life Podcast in connection with Ascension Presents and their quarterly publication, IMPRINT, which is printed through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus. Their YouTube channel also contains music composed and performed by some of the Sisters. If you want to learn more about their mission, their efforts and folks they have met along the way, their website is sistersoflife.org.