

The HOLY SEE



LEO XIV | SPEECHES | 2026 | MAY

PRESENTATION AND PROMULGATION OF THE ENCYCLICAL L
“MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS”

ADDRESS OF POPE LEO XIV

*Synod Hall
Monday, 25 May 2026*

[Multimedia]

Dear brothers and sisters,

I want to thank all of you for being here today, for your interest. I sincerely thank those who have organ especially those who shared their competence and experience in the different reflections that we have In a special way I would like to thank Mr Olah for accepting our invitation. In turn, in the name of the Ch walk together, to listen and to speak and together to find the way for humanity, in this time of artificial in What a great sign of hope that, with our differences, we can listen to one another. This interchange clea moment, as well as confidence that, together, we can discern the major questions of our time, and so, t At key moments in history, the Church is called to decipher the “new things” in the light of the Gospel at 135 years ago, my venerable predecessor [Leo XIII](#) observed the situation of factory workers, their fami poverty generated by rapid industrial transformation. He understood that the Church could not remain c point menacing human dignity, the encyclical [Rerum Novarum](#) spoke its evangelical and social word ab Today we find ourselves facing a transformation of similar magnitude, with perhaps even greater conse already touches many areas of our lives and affects decisions that shape human coexistence. It is also waged.

Like the earlier “Leo”, I feel entrusted to look upon another huge transformation with eyes of faith, with I mystery, and with cries of the poor and the earth resounding in my heart.

[Magnifica Humanitas](#) was born from listening like [Leo XIII](#) did. I have listened to scientists and engineers with enthusiasm on technologies capable of alleviating immense suffering; to political leaders and public officials who sought just rules; to parents and teachers who are deeply concerned for the future of younger generations. Other, very troubling voices have also reached me about increasingly autonomous weapons systems that are difficult to govern them effectively. I hear very troubling accounts of algorithms that can block access to healthcare on the basis of data tainted by prejudice and injustice. And I have heard the silence of those who have no voice. The decisions likely to generate new forms of exclusion and suffering.

From this listening matured a disturbing conviction expressed in [Magnifica Humanitas](#): artificial intelligence is a powerful word, strong, I know, but deliberately chosen because this moment needs words capable of attracting attention and indicating paths forward for humanity.

The Church has long been working for nuclear disarmament, aware that every great technical power can be accompanied by adequate moral discernment and public control. Nuclear disarmament remains a challenge for the human family.

In a similar sense, artificial intelligence now demands to be “disarmed,” freed from logics that turn it into a source of exclusion and death. Like nuclear energy, it must be at the service of all and of the common good. Decisions must not be separated from conscience and responsibility. “Let us not sleep as others do,” admonished the Apostle Paul (1 Thess 5:6). Such vigilance is necessary today. Peace, not merely the absence of war, is justice at work. Without critical sense, peace itself is at risk.

Disarming, however, is not enough. We must build.

The word “build” reminds me of my years as a missionary in Peru. In 2017, torrential rains and floods struck many families, saw their homes swallowed by mud, and many roads, too. There I learned that rebuilding does not mean simply reconstructing what has been destroyed. It means repairing bonds, restoring trust, and reawakening hope in the future. More than bricks and mortar.

In [Magnifica Humanitas](#), I recall the biblical prophet Nehemiah. Before the ruined walls of Jerusalem, he brought about rebirth. The image of walls does not legitimize closures or divisions, but invites each and every one to contribute. A more just coexistence takes shape, capable of safeguarding the dignity of all. Nehemiah’s effort to rebuild intelligence can be a construction site of history from within a horizon of communion, in which technical life is renewed.

“Let each builder choose with care how to build” (1 Cor 3:10) warns St. Paul. He does not fear the work of building without solid foundations. Let’s not fear artificial intelligence, but constantly keep the question of its use careful and not careless with our most powerful technical instruments.

True development, says [St Paul VI](#), always concerns “each man and the whole man.” “Each” means the margins of digital transformation. “Whole” means that no one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive utility. The person bears within him- or her-self a freedom, an interiority and a vocation to love and worship the Lord. Only with such an integral vision can artificial intelligence be directed toward the common good. Only to the benefit of all systems and those affected by them, richer countries and poorer ones, institutions and individuals, power and poverty, we be able to build a future, not for a privileged few, but for the entire human family.

This is the civilization of love which [St Paul VI](#) spoke and which [St John Paul II](#) so forcefully proclaimed not a naïve dream. It is a direction. It is the path that Jesus Christ opens within history.

For this reason, the Church wishes, with humility and frankness, to be part of conversations on artificial technical answers, nor do we seek to displace those with expertise. But we bring a wisdom concerning desperately needs: every person is unique and irreplaceable, a free and intelligent subject with a conscience serving one another, caring for our common home.

I therefore invite all members of the Church and of the human family: let us learn to listen to one another with courage, and cooperate in building a more human and fraternal society.

From this launch of [Magnifica Humanitas](#), please take with you a commitment to stay awake and, as “a building the worksite of our time. May the Spirit of the Risen Lord Jesus sustain our work together.

I entrust each of you to our Mother Mary. Her *Magnificat* sings of the greatness of God who uplifts the world to recognize the true greatness of every man and every woman in loving and serving. May the Lord make today we entrust to his grace, letting the civilization of love mature in history.

Upon all of you I heartily invoke God’s blessing.

Blessing.

Thank you very much.

Copyright © Dicastery for Communication - Libreria Editrice Vaticana



The **HOLY SEE**