

DAY 7: SATURDAY 11TH MAY



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR CATECHESIS

First Reading: Acts 18: 23-28. Responsorial

Psalm: Psalms 47: 2-3, 8-9, 10.

Alleluia: John 16: 28.

Gospel: John 16: 23b-28.

In Acts 18:26, Apollos, a bold and knowledgeable preacher, is instructed by Priscilla and Aquila about the Way of God, the Christian way of life, moral conduct, and devotion to God. This concept is central to catechism, which is the teachings of Jesus Christ. Pope John Paul II emphasised the importance of catechesis as a primary task of the Church. In 1992, the Catechism of the Catholic Church was presented, promoting renewed catechesis based on living sources of faith. In the age of Artificial Intelligence, various AI applications can enhance catechism and religious education. These include digital

catechetical platforms, Natural Language Processing (NLP), virtual catechists, content recommendation systems, sentiment analysis, automated translations, data analytics for outreach, sermon generation, interactive Bible study tools, and ethical dilemma discussion.

However, AI should always complement human catechists and adhere to the teachings of the Church.



Successful examples of AI applications in catechism programmes include digital platforms, Magisterium AI, Catholic.chat, ethical reflections, data analytics for outreach, and virtual catechists. It is crucial to ensure that AI complements the guidance of human Catechists and adheres to the teachings of the Church. The ultimate goal remains to foster spiritual growth and understanding of the Catholic faith.

The Holy Father's 2024 message suggests that AI systems can help overcome ignorance and facilitate information exchange between different generations. They can make written knowledge accessible and enable communication between individuals without common languages. However, they can also contribute to "cognitive pollution," where false narratives are broadcasted as true, distorting reality.



AI systems can bridge gaps in knowledge by making vast repositories of written knowledge accessible and fostering cross-cultural understanding. However, they can also contribute to cognitive pollution by disseminating false narratives, distorting reality and perpetuating misinformation. Nevertheless, responsible ways in which AI can serve humanity include transparency, inclusion, accountability, and impartiality. AI systems must be understandable, not discriminatory, and take responsibility for their actions.



In conclusion, AI has immense potential for positive impact in knowledge, especially in sharing knowledge about God, which helps form human individuals for His good and societal benefit. AI can align with Gospel values by promoting justice, solidarity, compassion, and the common good, respecting human dignity, autonomy, and the sanctity of life. However, we should bear in mind that the impact of AI will depend on its development, regulation, and integration into society, as well as our choices and ethical uses of the technologies at our disposal.