

5. Faith's Response: Discernment

- Discernment is listening to interior movements—the pulse of the Spirit.
- Consolation: peace, gratitude, compassion.
- Desolation: anxiety, emptiness, isolation.
- Consolation is God's language; discernment is learning to read it (SpEx [313–36]).

Seven Practical Discernment Techniques [SE 178-187]

1. Choosing the matter well
2. Interior freedom, or Ignatian *indifference*
3. Prayer for enlightenment
4. Imagine: Advice – how to respond to God's call
5. Imagine: At deathbed – chosen decision: happiness?
6. Use of reason: pros and cons
7. Signs of God's confirmation

Reflection

- How does AI touch our daily life – work, phone, newsfeed?
- What interior movement do we feel – peace, curiosity, anxiety, distraction?
- How can we use technology for the greater glory of God (*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*)?

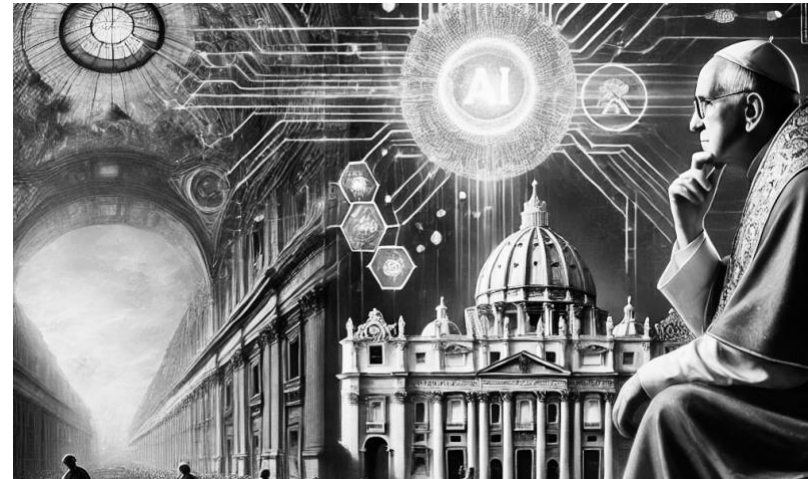
From Code to Communion

- AI can calculate, but only humans can contemplate.
- The Spirit breathes through circuits and code.
- Technology becomes sacred when guided by love and discernment.
- The world needs wiser hearts, not faster machines.

“See, I make all things new.” (Rev 21:5)

AI AND THE COMMON GOOD: A FAITH-INSPIRED RESPONSE

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“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Is 43:19)

1. Why We are Here

- Not to fear or glorify technology, but to find God in all things, even algorithms.
- Our task: to humanise progress so it serves people, not power.
- The real question: ‘Can AI think like us?’ or ‘Will we continue to love like God?’

2. The Reality of Today's World

- We live in a world of god-like technology and Stone Age emotions (E.O. Wilson).
- Technology connects us but can also isolate us.
- Online fatigue or anxiety can be a spiritual signal – an invitation to discernment.

3. What is AI?

- Coined by John McCarthy in 1956 at the Dartmouth Conference.
- AI: machines that mimic human intelligence through data learning.
- The Vatican clarifies: AI is not an artificial form of human intelligence but a product of it (Antiqua et Nova [35]).
- AI learns without understanding, acts without conscience, and mirrors its makers.
- If love guides us, it heals; if greed drives us, it harms.

3.1. AI vs. Human Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence	Human Intelligence
Created by code	Gift of God (Gen 2:7)
Learns from data & repetition	Learns from reflection & relationship
Simulates emotion	Experiences empathy & love
Follows algorithm	Guided by conscience & freedom
Aims at efficiency & control	Seeks meaning & communion
Cannot love	Loves freely — imago Dei
Cannot discern peace	Feels the Spirit's movement (SpEx [316])

3.2. Promise and Peril

Opportunities

- ✓ Medical innovation: faster diagnosis, personalized care
- ✓ Education: adaptive learning, wider access
- ✓ Economic growth & scientific discovery
- ✓ Climate action & humanitarian response

- ✓ Enhanced creativity & decision-making

Challenges

- Algorithmic bias → systemic discrimination
- Cognitive pollution → erosion of critical thinking
- Job displacement & economic inequality
- Security threats: cyberwarfare, autonomous weapons
- Moral & spiritual erosion: distraction from compassion, contemplation, authentic relationship
- Theological tension: human dignity reduced to efficiency

“AI is more than a tool, it is a mirror of the human heart” (Antiqua et Nova 10).

Like fire, it warms or burns depending on the hand that wields it.

4. The Common Good

- Technology must build communion, not competition (GS 26).
- ‘Technology is a gift of God, fulfilled when it serves humanity’ (Antiqua et Nova 7).
- Without ethics, AI risks creating digital, moral, and spiritual poverty.
- Faith calls us to design systems that protect, respect, and serve.
- As co-creators (Gen 1:28), we are called to care for creation and community.
- Ignatius: ‘Seek and find God in all things’ (SpEx [235]).
- The human person must remain at the center of technological progress.