

LIVING FAITH

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

May 31, 2026



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY-- JOHN 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Trinity Sunday is officially called "The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that "the Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the 'mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God.'" (CCC 237). When many people hear the word "mystery," they think of an Agatha Christie novel, or a riddle that needs to be solved. However, in the Christian sense, a "mystery of faith" can never be known by reason alone, fully understood, or solved, but can be contemplated, and draws us deeper and deeper into God.

Every Christian is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We are made in the image and likeness of God. God is love. God is a Trinity of Persons and a Trinity of relationships. We are made in and for love, and in and for relationship.

If we truly believe that we are made in the image and likeness of God, which means being made in and for love, and in and for relationship, then we have a challenge before us. This belief has implications. One of these implications is that *all* people, not *some*, are made in the image and likeness of God. And yet, when we look around us, we see how prevalent racism and discrimination based on colour and social class are in our world. All people have dignity, worth, rights and responsibilities. This is the bedrock of Catholic Social Teaching. Because it comes from God, human dignity is not something that we can bestow or take away from another person.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

- What can each one of us do, here and now, wherever we live, to build the reign of God- the reign of justice, mercy, love and compassion?
- How can we truly make human dignity the cornerstone of our relationships?
- How can we begin to build a world in which all people are respected?
- To what action can we commit ourselves?



God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 3:16-17

M L I Z D Q X P T H R O U G H
 V D J P Q W T W V L R C I D A
 C Y U L I F E O K D D E D B V
 I T S H B N R W L Z K O H M V
 S H Z N D G G J L G B S E N D
 J G O D B M A M R Y F N I L O
 S Z E N K D L V M R A W O N
 R A J M C P K V E F Q H X V O
 Y I V L G C S P L H E O J E U
 B W E E B O M E Y I V E O D U
 P O J S U N R R K M P V R W Z
 X R C V T D P I P F P E R S H
 S L S G C E X S Z N I R Z D T
 V D B Q G M F H E T E R N A L
 U G Y W P N V B E L I E V E S

LOVED	GOD	SON	CONDEMN	BELIEVES
THROUGH	SEND	WHOEVER	LIFE	SAVE
PERISH	ETERNAL	GAVE	HIM	WORLD



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THE CHURCH TEACHES HUMAN DIGNITY

"Being in the image of God the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone... capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons. And he is called by grace to a covenant with his Creator, to offer him a response of faith and love that no other creature can give in his stead. (CCC, #357)

Created in the image of the one God and equally endowed with rational souls, all... have the same nature and the same origin. Redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, all are called to participate in the same divine beatitude: all therefore enjoy an equal dignity. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1934)



The equality of people rests essentially on their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it: Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, colour, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1935)

"At stake is the dignity of the human person, whose defense and promotion have been entrusted to us by the Creator."
(St John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*)



Just as the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say "thou shalt not" to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. Can we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving? This is a case of inequality. Today everything comes under the laws of competition and the survival of the fittest, where the powerful feed upon the powerless. As a consequence, masses of people find themselves excluded and marginalized: without work, without possibilities, without any means of escape. Human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded. We have created a "throw away" culture which is now spreading. It is no longer simply about exploitation and oppression, but something new. Exclusion ultimately has to do with what it means to be a part of the society in which we live; those excluded are no longer society's underside or its fringes or its disenfranchised – they are no longer even a part of it. The excluded are not the "exploited" but the outcast, the "leftovers". (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel [Evangelii Gaudium]* #153)

Pope Leo XIV's First Encyclical Letter: Magnifica Humanitas

25 May 2026, Ottawa – Pope Leo XIV's Encyclical Letter, [Magnifica Humanitas](#), was released today. It focuses on safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence. The letter is dated 15 May, to commemorate the 135th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's Encyclical Letter, [Rerum Novarum](#).

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development offers the following synopsis of the Encyclical Letter: “*Magnifica Humanitas* offers insights into the protection of the human person in the age of artificial intelligence, recognizing a profound epochal shift. It places the dignity of the human person at the centre as the criteria for guiding technical progress. The Church's social teaching accompanies these transformations, pointing to the common good, solidarity and subsidiarity as the fundamental benchmarks for understanding and interpreting the transformation currently underway. It proposes, as an alternative to the culture of power and war, a civilization of love founded on justice, dialogue and shared responsibility.”

To accompany the Encyclical Letter, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has prepared a collection of resources on the topic of artificial intelligence. Over the coming weeks we will delve into this Encyclical, chapter by chapter.

Link to the Encyclical Letter

FIRST ENCYCLICAL OF POPE LEO XIV



ENCYCLICAL LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV
MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS
On safeguarding the human person in the time of Artificial Intelligence

1 of 5
Introduction and Chapter 1

Today's new issues (res novae):

- Artificial Intelligence
- Digitalisation
- New technological capabilities

Risks:

- △ Concentrated power (often in private hands)
- △ Automated decision-making
- △ Loss of human control



“What direction should we choose as people and as a human community?” MH 4

TWO ROADS AHEAD OF US:

Babel

Humanity without God
Uniformity
Dehumanisation

Jerusalem

God at the centre
Diversity as a source of richness
Brotherhood / Collaboration




“Never has humanity had such power over itself.” MH 6

The Tower of Babel Syndrome

- Profit before people
- Reducing people to mere data
- Growing inequalities
- Loss of dignity

Choose “Nehemia's way”

- build together
- Dialogue
- Listening
- Inclusion
- Shared responsibility



“No one can single-handedly bear the weight of the challenges the world is facing.” MH 13

4 PILLARS FOR BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

1



Relationship with God

2



Accepting human limitations

3



Shared responsibility

4



Language that unites



“When human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace.” MH 15

**Let us not build another Tower of Babel;
let us become builders of communion!**

