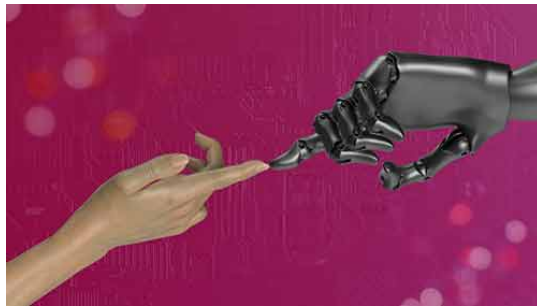


Greetings!

MAAGNIFICA HUMANITAS

Encyclical by Pope Leo XIV



Pope Leo XIV recently published *Magnifica Humanitas* to reflect on the rapid development of AI. Rev. Cameron Trimble posts her thoughts on his encyclical in *Piloting Faith*. ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)). I have selected certain excerpts below:

"After reading the document, I was not left with fear of technology. The encyclical is thoughtful and balanced. Pope Leo acknowledges the remarkable opportunities AI could bring to medicine, education, research, accessibility, and communication. Still, the document expresses a deeper worry about the kind of civilization we are creating and the people we are becoming within it."

"I think many people already feel that something important is changing in us, both mentally and spiritually. Our attention spans are getting shorter. Silence is harder to handle. People find it difficult to stay present long enough to pray, read deeply, or keep strong relationships. Young people are growing up in systems built to profit from distraction and control attention."

"This moment is morally complicated. . . Right now, I am not sure we have the moral maturity needed to use this kind of power wisely. That might be the main worry behind Pope Leo's encyclical."

"In a world that is more and more fascinated by artificial intelligence, someone finally spoke up to say that humanity is still sacred. We are fragile, full of contradictions, able to be violent and gentle at once, and still deserve dignity beyond what we can produce or achieve. I believe many people need to hear this message today."

"Ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human." —
Pope Leo XIV



**Stories, insights
and action for a world
that works for all of us**

~ ~ ~

*Justice is what love looks
like in public.*

Cornell West

~ ~ ~

Favorite Resources

[Fix the News](#)

(Future Crunch)

[Reasons to be Cheerful](#)
[Chop Wood, Carry Water](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality Project](#)

[Local Futures](#)

[Desert Rose Press](#)

[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

~ ~ ~

*We will and must resist
and protest as long as it
takes to get our
democracy back*

~ ~ ~

This Month's Features



Does resistance matter? Do protests work?

In [Today's Edition Newstetter](#) Robert Hubbell addresses questions that many have expressed about the effectiveness of ongoing protests to Trump's authoritarian regime. I have selected excerpts from his post. In every edition he publishes protest photos that participants have sent him. It is inspiring!

First of all he puts the two choices before us: A. Resist in whatever ways possible, or B. Give up and surrender.

"It doesn't matter what form of protest the people in the photos adopt. The fact of their existence is what matters."

"The protesters speak for others who are understandably afraid or cautious, or who are taking care of an elderly parent, or who are working three jobs to pay off student loans while making rent."

"The measure of a protest's success is not how many protesters show up on a given day. It is how many hearts and minds the protesters touch by being willing to serve as examples of courage and resistance in the face of emerging authoritarianism."

"You will never know when your example will inspire someone to join the movement. And we will not find the 'tipping point' unless we continue to resist every day in the face of uncertain odds."

"Keep up your good work. Resistance is the only path to success, which will surely come so long as we do not give up." [Read more and see photos here.](#)



EVERY VOICE COUNTS

So does every vote

The more people we can encourage and help vote in the midterm elections the better our chances are of taking back the House and Senate from Trump loyalists who will not stand up for democracy, for human rights, for justice. Here's a list of some of the top organizations working to REGISTER AND GET OUT THE VOTE!

thecivicscenter.org : Mobilizing the youth vote in America.

vote.org: Everything you need to know to vote.

guides.vote: Non-partisan guide to how candidates stand on issues.

votefwd.org: Write letters to encourage folks to vote.

[Postcards to Swing States](#): Write postcards to help get out the vote.

[Blue Wave Postcards](#): An easy and straightforward way to reach voters.

[VoteRiders](#): will tell you what you need to know in order to ensure you can vote.

rockthevote.org: Find everything you need to vote.

**FREE
AMERICA**



Action Sites and Resources for Democracy and Our Planet

Given the continued threats to our democracy and our Earth, this resource guide lists our favorite sources of information, opportunities for action and hope.

Reclaiming and Protecting Our Democracy is Every Day

[Chop Wood, Carry Water, by Jessica Craven](#): Provides daily actions for our democracy. Always encouraging.

[Steady, by Dan Rather](#): Excellent commentary on current affairs.

[Today's Edition Newsletter, by Robert Hubbell](#): Reflections on and summary of today's news.

[Letters from an American, by Heather Cox Richardson](#): Commentary on current news.

[The Status Kuo, by Jay Kuo](#): Commentary and analysis of today's news. (I recommend "Surviving the Next Four Years" for strategies such as: avoid doom and despair; be a voice of hope, not fear; unplug from network news; commit small acts of resistance." [Read here.](#))

[Hopium Chronicles, by Simon Rosenberg](#): Current analysis and frequent interviews.

[Indivisible.org](#): a good source for information on future rallies.

Climate Action: Every Action Counts!

[Climate Action Now!](#): Subscribe and get an action to do every day, plus climate hope.

[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](#)

[15 Actions to Make a Difference](#)

An old saying: We can all be the someone who is doing something.

All Kinds of Good News



Koala Refuge

New South Wales creates a vast koala refuge after 13 years of campaigning. The Great Koala National Park will protect almost 5,000 km² along Australia's east coast by linking existing reserves with state forests and creating corridors through a landscape fragmented by logging, roads and development. Conservationists say the park should safeguard around 20% of NSW's wild koalas, plus 66 other threatened animals and 37 threatened plant species.

[Read here.](#)



Earth Prize 2026

The Earth Prize is the world's largest environmental competition and 'ideas incubator' for 13-19-year-olds, empowering young people with mentorship and \$100K funding. Two sisters living in Gaza have been named winners of the Middle East region. Their project transforms rubble from damaged buildings into reusable, non-load-bearing blocks that can be used for garden beds, pavements and partitions. "It was an amazing feeling to be named Wnners of the Middle East region. This recognition feels like proof that hope can rise from rubble. [Read here.](#)



More Dam Removals

For the fifth year in a row Europe set record dam removals with 603 river barriers deconstructed, freeing 2,323 miles of river. Sweden led with 173 removals, while Iceland and North Macedonia joined the movement for the first time. The success of the dam removal movement is based on a growing recognition that healthy rivers are critical natural infrastructure – living systems that provide flood protection, water security, biodiversity and climate resilience.

[Read more here.](#)



Shanghai: A Zero Waste City

Shanghai, home to 30 million people, is moving toward a citywide circular economy, with industrial recycling approaching 98% and household recycling at 45% since mandatory sorting began in 2019. Kitchen waste is converted into fertilizer and biodegradable plastics and companies are recycling 130,000 tons of aluminum a year into new automotive materials and beverage cans.

[Read more here.](#)

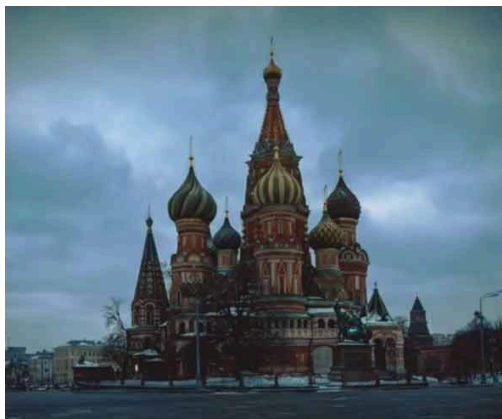
Wisdom for Our Time



"No sin, failure, humiliation, or exclusion can diminish the profound value of a human life that God has willed and called into being."

"Solidarity demands that decisions regarding data, algorithms, platforms and artificial intelligence take into account not only the immediate benefit for a few, but also the impact on all peoples and on future generations." —Pope Leo XIV, from *Magnifica Humanitas*

Another feat of engineering! Building St. Basil's Cathedral in 1555, without machines



Last month I featured the amazing construction of the highest bridge in the world in China. Four hundred seventy years earlier, in



Time to shout!
Time to be loud!
Time to act!

Time to soak up a long list of good news put together by Jessica Craven in her weekly post, [Extra! Extra!](#)

1555, architects and workers built St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow's Red Square, an equally complex structure. They built this *without* the use of power tools, *without* construction equipment or electronic devices to analyze data. [Watch this 17 minutes video here.](#)

*Happy July
Virginia/Gibi*

Virginia Mudd | Box 50 | San Jose, NM 87565 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!