



Rector's Essay - Magnifica Humanitas

By Jarrett Kerbel (07/03/26)

On Sunday, I had the pleasure of attending a discussion of Pope Leo's encyclical [*Magnifica Humanitas*](#) with Pax Christi at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Our open and thoughtful conversation covered the introduction and the first chapter. I walked away with a grateful heart.

It is so refreshing to sit down with fellow Christians of goodwill who are eager to learn and seek God's guidance together. People of all ages gathered around the table and everyone had insights to share.

I hope you will add this very well written and accessible encyclical to your summer reading list!

One thing I admire about the church based in Rome is their biblical, reasoned and disciplined approach to social teachings. Even when I do not agree with the conclusions at least the effort has been made to be clear! *Magnifica Humanitas* begins with a very helpful review of past social teaching encyclicals, and as such is a primer for applied Christian ethics.

I am passionate about Christian Ethics and Christian Social Teachings so I will be offering a discussion of *Magnifica Humanitas* in August. The encyclical addresses the key Christian testimony about human dignity grounded in our creation as image bearers of God, and the role that meaningful labor plays in expressing the creative power we share with God.

At one point in the discussion, the participants all agreed that the Tech Billionaires driving AI seem to dislike collaboration with actual human workers and want to replace us with robots and AI. Moreso, the Trans-Humanist thinking that drives this sector puts the transcendence of a few select humans above the good of humanity in

general. Essentially, we are facing a form of tech driven eugenics, and that is frightening, immoral, and opposed to God's will.

Here is the document at this link! Can't wait to talk about it!

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html#INTRODUCTION>