Vatican City

PRESS RELEASE
International Conference

**Generative Artificial Intelligence and Technocratic paradigm:
how to promote the wellbeing of humanity,
care for nature and a world of peace**

Pontifical Patristic Institute Augustinianum - Via Paolo VI, 25
June 20 - 22, 2024

"Generative Artificial Intelligence and Technocratic paradigm: how to promote the wellbeing of humanity, care for nature and a world of peace" is the theme chosen by the Centesimus Annus pro Pontifice Foundation for the 2024 International Conference. The event will take place at the Pontifical Patristic Institute Augustinianum. The meeting will begin on Thursday, June 20, starting with the Assembly of Members and the reports from local Groups. On Friday, June 21, the conference topic will be developed and deepened through reflections by authoritative scholars and experts in the field. Finally, on Saturday, June 22, there will be a private audience granted by Pope Francis and a speech by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State.

The objective of the International Conference is to examine the benefits and issues related to the rapid and widespread evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI), with a particular focus on Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI). The Foundation aims to contribute in promoting an ethical and sustainable use of AI for the well-being of people and the environment, overcoming the technocratic paradigm. The Conference will analyze both the ethical and social implications of AI and the practical solutions to adopt to build a future where technology serves humanity and the planet. The Magisterium of Pope Francis, which has dealt extensively with the topic of artificial intelligence, is the point of reference for this International Conference. The Holy Father's speech at the G7 scheduled for June 14th will deal with such technology, and the Conference will take it into account.

In 2015, Pope Francis, with the Encyclical "Laudato Sì", issued an urgent appeal for the care of creation, emphasizing the moral obligation to protect the environment and defend the "poor and the fragility of the planet" (LS, n. 16). The Pope highlighted how the world was at risk of survival. The root of the problem was identified in human behaviour, particularly in an economic system oriented towards speculative profit and short-term gain, fuelled by the technocratic paradigm (LS, n. 109). This paradigm has generated a throwaway culture, where what is no longer able to produce profit is discarded. Eight years later, in the Apostolic Exhortation "Laudate Deum", the Pope reaffirmed with greater force the messages of "Laudato Sì", calling for a profound revision of our lifestyles and business models, and the relationship between science, innovation, economy, and society. The Pontiff expressed concern about the tepid response to his exhortations: "The world we live in is

collapsing and could be nearing a breaking point" (LD, n. 2). He again emphasized the "technocratic paradigm" which in recent years has made enormous progress, based on "an obsessive ideology: increasing human power beyond imaginable limits, treating non-human reality as a mere resource" (LD, n. 22). The issue is not the rejection of technology but its use for the common good. From this perspective, the rapid progress of AI poses epochal challenges: "Artificial intelligence and recent technological developments are based on the idea of a limitless human being, whose capabilities could be infinitely extended through technology" (LD, n. 21). Pope Francis stated that "the expanded capacities by technology give those who hold knowledge and economic power an impressive dominance over all of humanity and the entire world" (LD, n. 23). In the message for the LVII World Day of Peace, on 1 January 2024, the Holy Father once again addressed the topic of the ethics of AI, connecting it to the theme of peace.

In conclusion, in the light of Pope Francis' magisterium, the Conference aims to analyze the current situation, the positive aspects and risks associated with AI seeking to answer some fundamental questions: what is AI for? Is it possible to develop and use AI in an ethical way? Is it possible to realize technological and scientific progress as a path to peace? Is it possible to combine the development of Generative Artificial Intelligence with the respect for people's rights, the inclusion of the most fragile, the care for the planet, making it a tool for integration between worlds which are increasingly interconnected and counteracting the growing inequalities?

Many challenging questions to which we hope to be able to give some answers and certainly activate a process of listening, raising awareness and taking action in the wake of the social doctrine of the church.

Accreditation Procedure:
journalists and media operators who wish to participate in the conference on Friday, June 21 must submit a request within 24 hours of the event through the online Accreditation System of the Holy See Press Office at the following address: https://press.vatican.va/accreditamenti