



Newsletter – July 2024

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

SEE- THE REALITY

1. What are the positive uses of Artificial Intelligence in society, in industries, in social media and in communications?

From our base group sharing, especially from the few school teachers (past and current) that we have, we gathered that many useful functions of AI, from the drafting of emails, us use of it as referencing platforms to automation in marking, are already part and parcel of their daily routine. The same, on a larger scale and competency is happening in the business, financial and social arena, without doubt and without haste. In fact, all of us using WhatsApp, would already had our first dose of AI pushed down to us, if we aren't been introduced to IT, via other social media platforms already.

2. What are the issues and misuse of AI in society, in industries, in social media and in communications?

We thought of familiar narratives such as plagiarism, and the replacement of human labor and the inevitable corollary of misappropriation of information due to ease of access and redundancy of human skills in the light of more efficient mechanical/digitized ones. As much as machines and computers are replacing human jobs, it had never come close to replacing humans, until this era of generative AI. With social engagement capabilities of engaging human online as if they are 'friends' to our children and abilities that races for attention to the bottom of our brain stem¹ and learning how to relate to human in intimate ways, that line between connecting with a human and a machine, has blurred.

¹ The A.I. Dilemma – March 9, 2023, Youtube Videos
<https://youtu.be/xoVJKj8lcNQ?si=H1qnMqoPB8WgTw21>, accessed on June 25, 2024

SEE- THE CAUSES OF AI

1. What were the causes of the positive sides of AI?

Man desires good. Save for a few who were obsessed with the desire for immortality, the desire for advancement in medicine, and the building of a sustainable Mother Earth are good pursuits of man seeking for cure to save a loved one and to have a better environment for our future generations.

2. What are the causes of the negative sides of AI?

Most evil are side-effects of the will for goodness. We heard of the proverb, “the road to hell is paved with good intentions”. When good falls in the hand of ill intent, it becomes evil, even if it was carried out in omission or ignorance. With the rat race and everyone jumping into the AI boat for fear of missing out, monies are unprecedentedly poured in by large corporations in all fields to get ahead of the race, to gain profits and market shares. Promulgated by many superhero actions, we often hear “with great power, comes great responsibility”, yet if we do not know what we are building, how do we know what we need to govern to promote accountability for it?

SEE- THE CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACT OF AI

1. What is the impact of the positive sides of AI?

Fr David Garcia, expounded at the Personal Moral Compass class, that “some evil need to be tolerate, if we want some good.” This is as simple as when we build highways, more road accidents can be expected, when we increase digital connectivity to overcome physical limitations, we also start losing how it felt like to connect in-person. While AI can enhance human capabilities, assisting in different tasks and improving overall quality of life, it is a different narrative when it comes to the blending of the social fabric of society with the digital fiber of AI.

JUDGE

1. What is your own personal opinion of the above consequences and impact of AI?

So long as all the enhanced capabilities appealing to the human desire to be better and greater are guided and appropriated us towards the fulfilment of our created purpose *to praise, reverence and serve God and by doing so to save our own souls, God created all other things on the face of the earth to help fulfil this purpose*². Taken from the First Principle and Foundation, *we are to use the things of this world only to the extent that they help us to this end, and we ought to rid ourselves of the things of this world to the extent that they get in the way of this end.*

² The First Principle and Foundation, The Spiritual Exercises [23] of Ignatius of Loyola.

Yet danger lurks closely with the blurring of lines between Reality and Virtual Reality. The risk that man is taking by jumping too impulsively into this AI wagon, in their pursuits for comparative advantage over the exercise of prudence and fortitude.

Perhaps only the discerning eye might be able to stay focused on the right vision, when the human eye loses sight.

2. If Jesus is present, what do you think would be His opinion of the above consequences and impact of AI.

Taught by Jesus in the gospel of Matthew to “repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God,” He separates the spiritual from temporal allegiances. Although the virtual reality is going to further blur the separation between true reality from the digitally experience, we like to believe that *our hearts would remain restless till we find rest in God* (St. Augustine). We would count on our hearts to lead us to the way, the truth and life.

Imparting the teachings from Catechism of the Catholic Church.

2428, that **the primordial value of work and how man is the ultimate author and beneficiary of work** and not the reverse, is a keynote that Christians need to impart to our children. This keeps the line between Man and machines delineated.

2426 The development of economic activity and growth in production are meant to provide for the needs of human beings. Economic life is not meant solely to multiply goods produced and increase profit or power; it is ordered first to the service of persons, of the whole man, and of the entire human community. **Economic activity, conducted according to its own proper methods, is to be exercised within the limits of the moral order, in keeping with social justice to correspond to God’s plan for man.**

2427 Human work proceeds directly from persons created in the image of God and called to prolong the work of creation by subduing the earth, both with and for one another. ²¹⁰Hence work is a duty: “If anyone will not work, let him not eat.” Work honors the Creator’s gifts and the talents received from him. It can also be redemptive. By enduring the hardship of work in union with Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth and the one crucified on Calvary, man collaborates in a certain fashion with the Son of God in his redemptive work. He shows himself to be a disciple of Christ by carrying the cross, daily, in the work he is called to accomplish. **Work can be a means of sanctification and a way of animating earthly realities with the Spirit of Christ.**

ACTION

Jesus who is the model of our life, often go for the less or least popular choices. May we draw from John 17:14 **to live “in the world” but not “of the world”** to follow Christ's word and reflect it by our words and actions rather than following the unbelieving world's values, beliefs, and conduct.

What are the possible actions that can be taken by:

1. You

We believe that maintaining a discerning and critical eye for what is to come, equipping ourselves with a strong moral compass informed by the teachings of the Church would be the more prudent step to take.

2. Your Base group or community?

Modeling ourselves to impart the right teachings to our younger generations to be like what Jesus warned “Behold, I am sending you as **lambs among wolves (or Humans among A.I.**; be therefore crafty as snakes and innocent as doves.” in the gospel of Matthew

3. The National Team? /The Regional Team?

Taking directives from the leaders of the country and our local Church to guide us.

Contributed by OLPS base group