



# DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

*shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit*

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Hello all,

As many of you know, one of the themes of this year's letters has been the rise of artificial intelligence. It's a subject that I find fascinating both personally and professionally. And, as it turns out, it is a fascination I share with Pope Francis. In this year's "[World Day of Peace Address](#)" he focuses his attention on the connections between artificial intelligence and peace.

Far from being a luddite, Pope Francis begins his address optimistically quoting documents from the Second Vatican Council: "When human beings, 'with the aid of technology,' endeavor to make 'the earth a dwelling worthy of the whole human family,' they carry out God's plan and cooperate with his will to perfect creation and bring about peace among peoples. Progress in science and technology, insofar as it contributes to greater order in human society and greater fraternal communion and freedom, thus leads to the betterment of humanity and the transformation of the world." Tech companies make similar aspirational claims about the ability to transform the world for the better. And some of the claims are not without merit. One only needs to consider the possibility the internet has to bring about "greater fraternal communion and freedom."

Unchecked technological progress, however, is a danger. Too often the focus strays from "the whole human family" and "peace among peoples." Consequently, Francis offers a way to check that progress: "We cannot presume a priori that this development will make a beneficial contribution to the future of humanity and to peace among peoples. That positive outcome will only be achieved if we show ourselves capable of acting responsibly and respect such fundamental human values as "inclusion, transparency, security, equity, privacy and reliability." To ensure that positive outcome, Francis places a primacy on "The inherent dignity of each human person." We must evaluate technological possibility against the influence it will have on human dignity.

Pope Francis's essay is a succinct and insightful look at some of the bigger issues of our day. It goes on to address human mortality as a human limit, the role technology is playing in the workforce, autonomous weapons systems, and fake news. If you have 30 minutes, it is certainly worth your time.

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



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## Announcements

- February 23 **District Championship:** Our girls basketball team plays for the district Championship tonight at Elsberry. Hope to see you there.
- February 26 **NCAA Eligibility Program:** A representative from the NCAA will be on campus to help families whose children are interested in playing collegiate sports. Please see the flyer from Mrs. Grass for more information.
- February 29-March 2 **School House Rock:** The Spring Musical is finally here. The Duchesne Performing Arts department presents *School House Rock*. That's right, all of your favorite throwback cartoons will be on our stage in live action. I'm particularly excited for "I'm Just a Bill." The show begins each night at 7:00.
- March 1 **Last Day of the 3rd Quarter**
- March 4-8 **Mission Week:** Our students and Campus Ministry have planned a variety of activities leading up to our Mission Week pep rally.
- March 4 **All School Mass:** Mission Week kicks off with an all school mass. As usual, all of our families are welcome to attend.
- March 9-17 **Spring Break**
- March 20 **Home Golf (Bogey), Volleyball, and Soccer**
- March 21 **Home Baseball (BMAC)**
- March 23 **Track Meet (Lutheran SC)**
- March 28-April 1 **Easter Break**