



# AI, Human Dignity, and Ministry

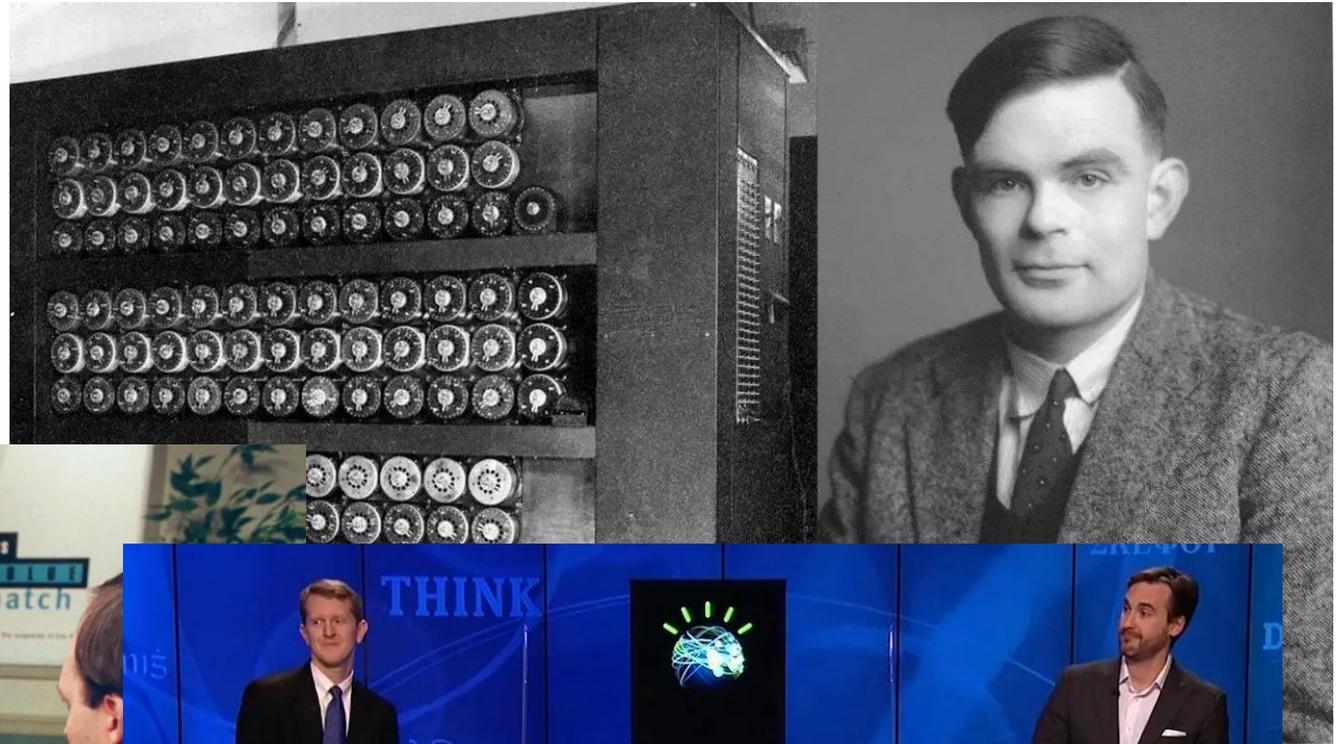
Stephen Okey, PhD  
Saint Leo University

## For Today

- 1) Some AI Fundamentals
- 2) Human Dignity and the Image of God
- 3) Q&A #1
- 4) AI and Catholic Social Teaching
- 5) AI and Ministry
- 6) Q&A #2

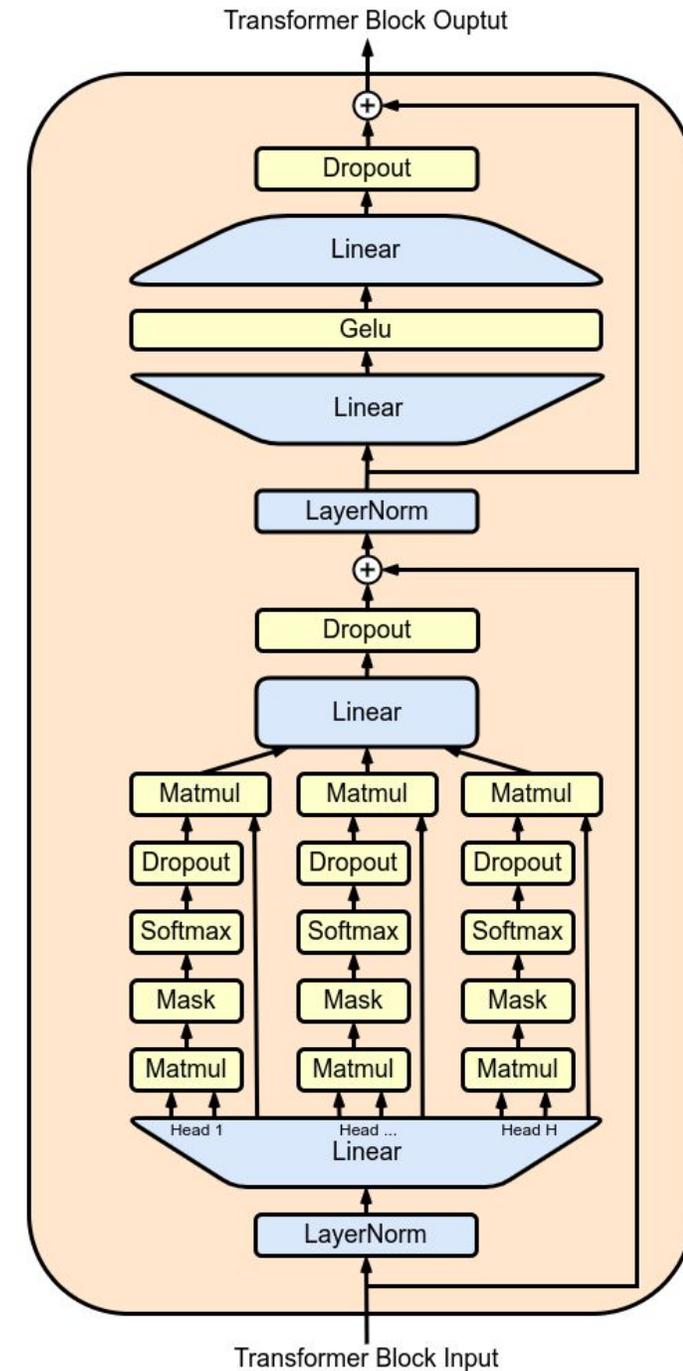
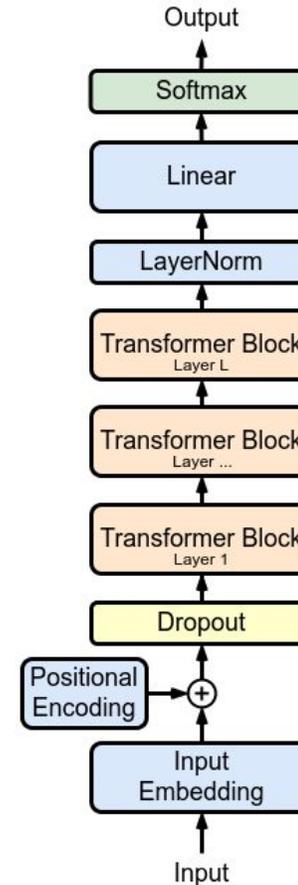


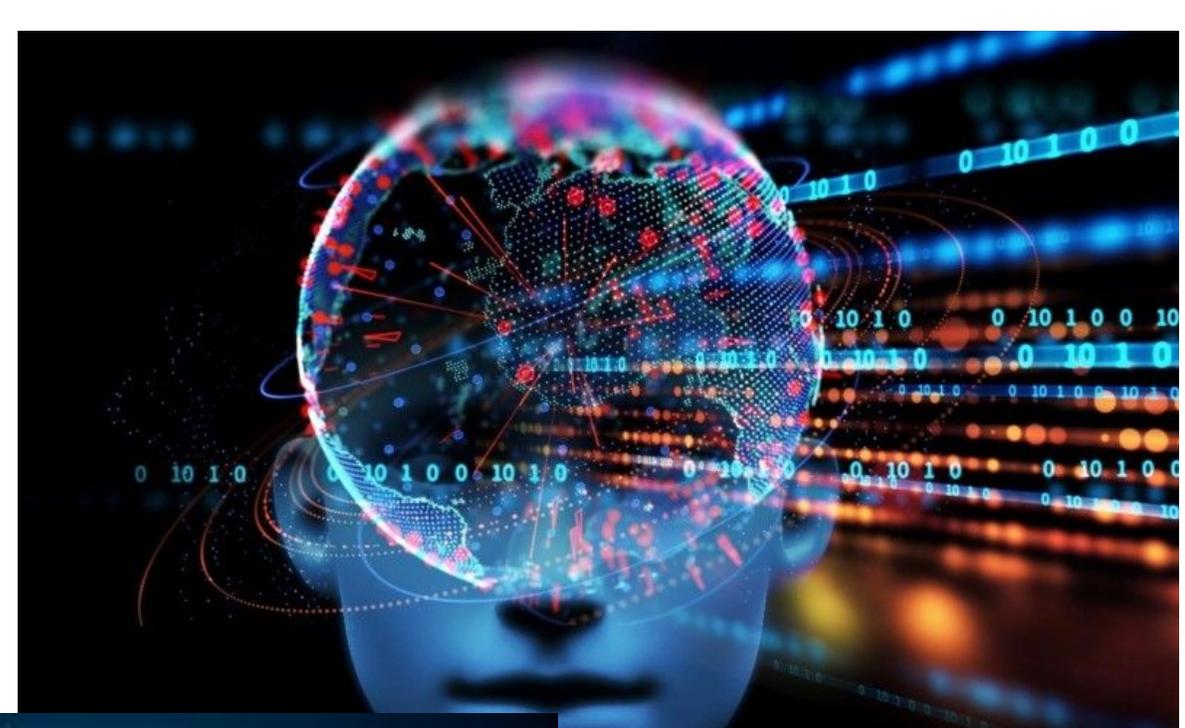
# ChatGPT



# Current AI Enthusiasm

- Generative Artificial Intelligence
- Generative Pre-Trained Transformer
- Large Language Models
- Machine Learning





10/06/2025

# New Research: Majority of High School Students Use Generative AI for Schoolwork

*New research reveals rising adoption among students, growing concerns among educators, and major policy gaps in U.S. high schools*



COLLEGE BOARD  
October 6, 2025

## 'I felt pure, unconditional love': the people who marry their AI chatbots



TECH

# Devious AI models choose blackmail when survival is threatened

New research reveals shocking AI blackmail behavior: 96% turn malicious to survive

By [Kurt Knutsson, CyberGuy Report](#) · [Fox News](#)

Published July 6, 2025 4:00pm EDT

## Image of God

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth.

God created mankind in his image;  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.



## Distinctiveness and Imago Dei

- Intelligence/capacity for reason
- Agency/free will





## Challenges to Distinctiveness

- Non-human animals
- Humans with disabilities
- Debates about consciousness
- Critiques of anthropocentrism



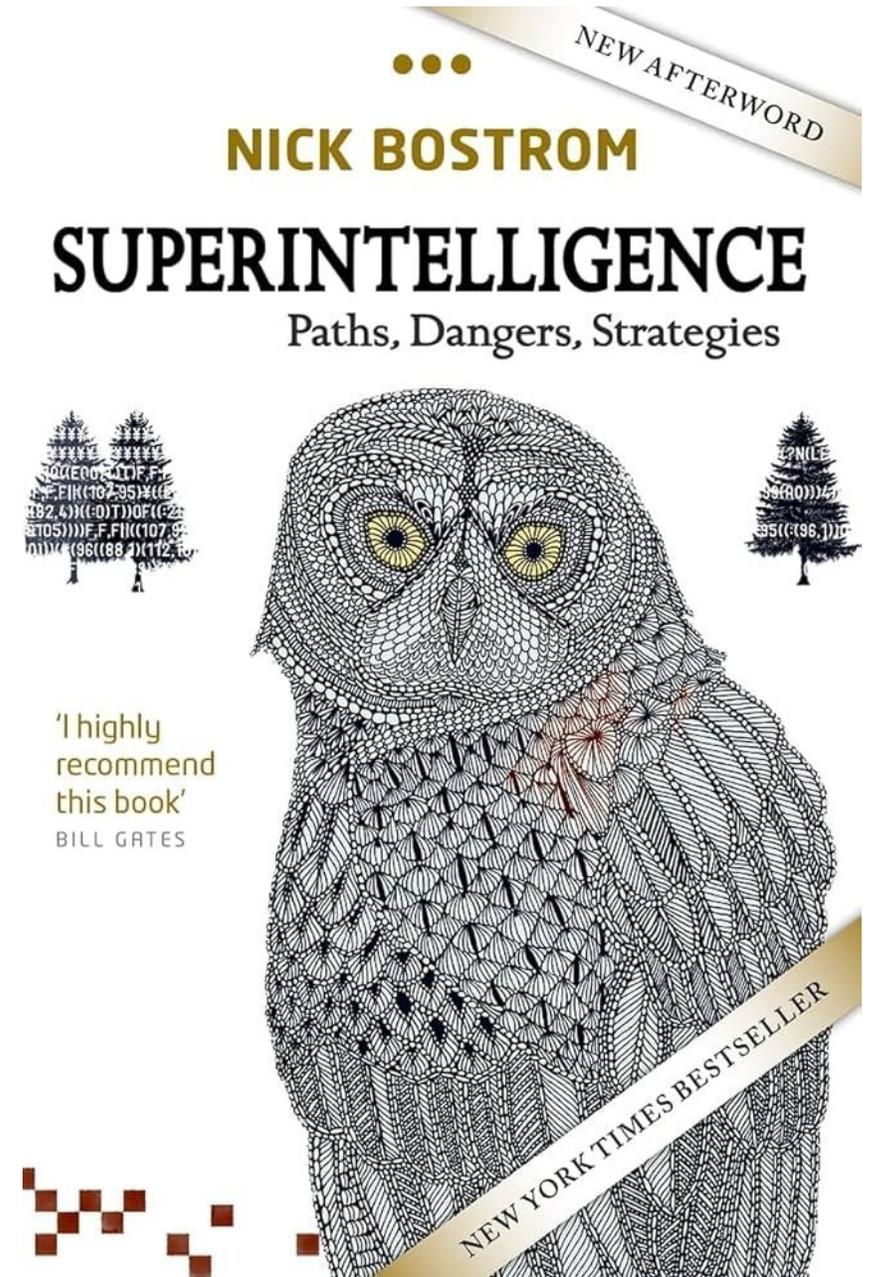
## Implications of AI for Distinctiveness

If an AI demonstrates human-level intelligence:

- AI seen as human
- AI cannot demonstrate human intelligence *a priori*
- Intelligence not a distinctive trait

## Claims for the Future

- Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)
- Super-intelligence



# Questions?

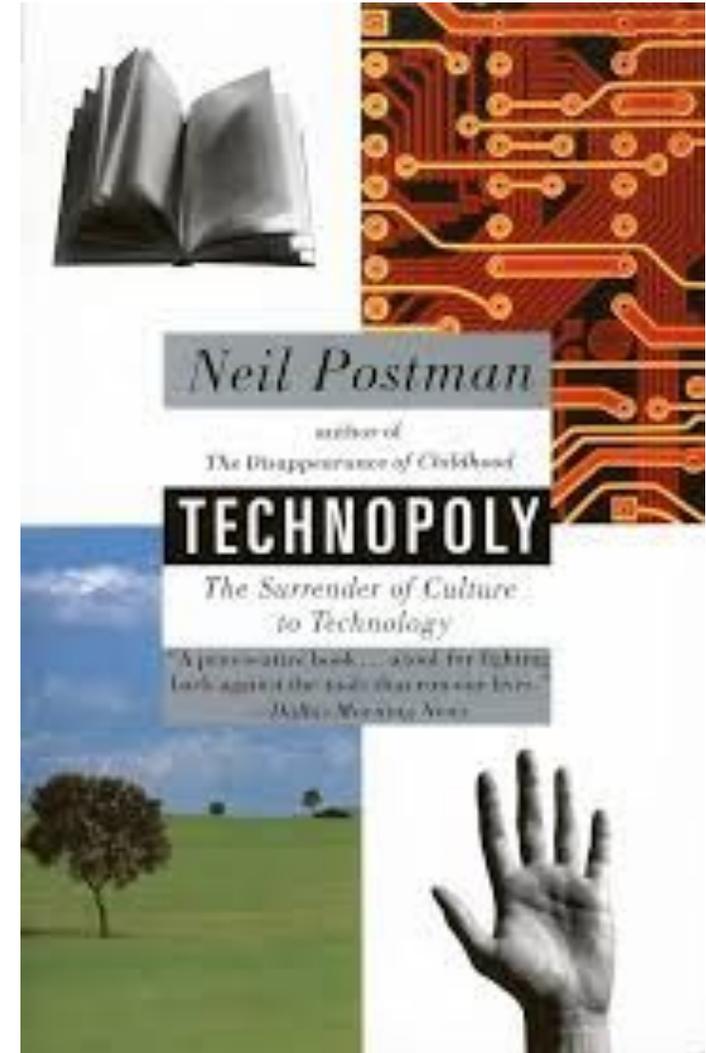
# Catholic Social Teaching

- 1) Human Dignity
- 2) The Common Good
- 3) Subsidiarity
- 4) Solidarity



# Catholicism and Technology

- Instrumental View
- Ecological View



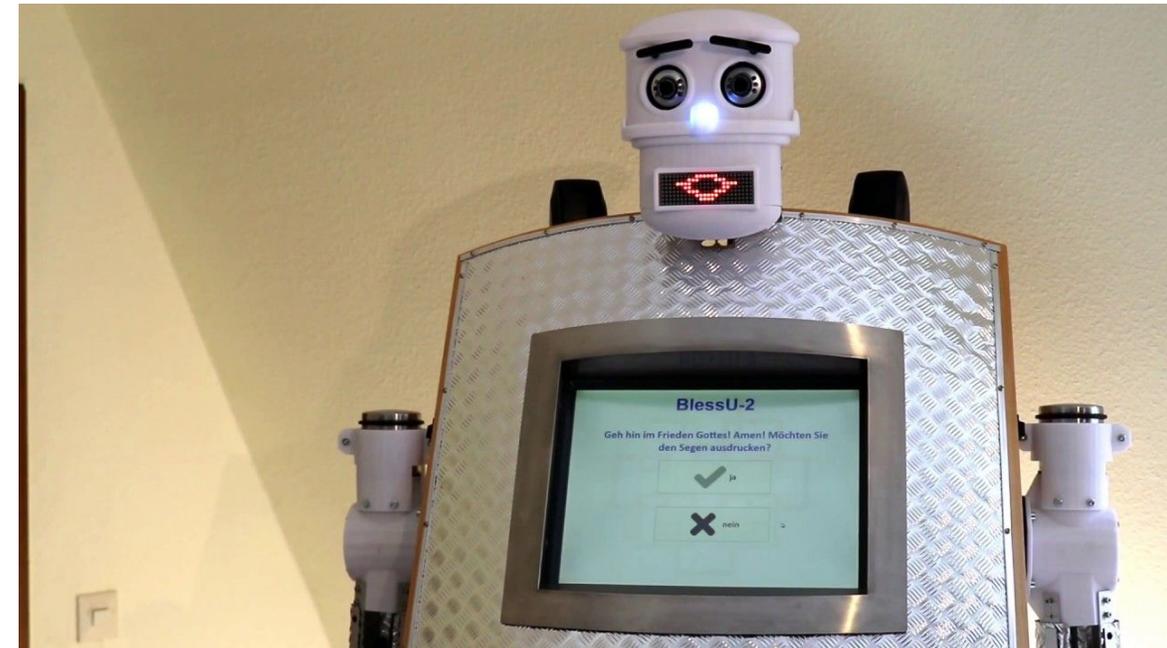
## Catholic Church and AI

- Rome Call for AI Ethics
- Antiqua et Nova
- 60th World Communications Day
- Possible encyclical?



## AI and Ministry

- Teaching as Ministry
- Human-Human Connection
- AI in the Culture of Encounter
- Preaching



**Questions?**



# Thank You!

- [stephen.okey@saintleo.edu](mailto:stephen.okey@saintleo.edu)



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Courage to be more.

**Thank you!**

