



## *The Immaculate Conception Church of Darby*



434 Western Avenue • Toledo, Ohio 43609  
**PHONE (419) 243-1829 • FAX (419) 241-9642**  
[www.iccatdarby.org](http://www.iccatdarby.org) • [nicole@iccatdarby.org](mailto:nicole@iccatdarby.org)

Then Jesus  
 straightened up  
 and said to her,  
 “Woman, where are  
 they? Has no one  
 condemned you?”

She replied,  
 “No one sir.”  
 Then Jesus said,  
 “Neither do I  
 condemn you.  
 Go, and from  
 now on do not  
 sin any more.”

*John 8:10, 11*

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Christopher P. Vasko, JCD, Ph.D.  
 Weekend Associate: Reverend Rudi Schwarzkopf, OSFS  
 Deacon: Paul Nungester  
 Deacon: Thomas S. Carone  
 Deacon: David E. Smith

*Pastoral Emergencies Only 419-243-6031*

### **PARISH STAFF FOR IC**

Bookkeeper .....Helen Yensz  
 Administrative Assistant.....Nicole Magana  
 Custodian.....Dave Degener  
 Sacristan.....Walter Schlegel  
 Organist.....Jim Burns  
 .....Kathleen Mick

### **EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES**

Saturday 4:00 pm @ IC  
 Sunday 11:00 am @ IC  
 Tuesday 9:00 am @ IC

### **Immaculate Conception Outreach**

Director Natalie Fisher  
 1102 Broadway 419-243-1819

***ALL ARE WELCOME! A MEMBER OF BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA DEANERY***

Dear people of God,

As I hope everyone knows, we are in the midst of the Annual Catholic Appeal, the Lenten reminder that we belong to a larger Church than the parish. The ACA provides the necessary funding for ministerial works of the diocese, the very things on which all of us are to be judged when the Christ returns in the end times: feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, releasing prisoners from unfair bondage. and all the other works of mercy you can find in the Gospel of Matthew. Because of the importance of these goals, I'd like to talk money today and perhaps increase the number of pledges from the parish and even the dollars being pledged. Again, the Appeal funds Mission and Ministry, not operations: the dollars pledged and raised meet the needs of the programs being offered by the diocese. These programs enrich our faith life and expand the outreach of the diocese across the nineteen counties which make up the diocese of Toledo and even allow us to participate in broader regional and international programs.

But what I'd like to look at today is the value of a pledge or donation over time: most of us have a set dollar limit and that's what we've been giving for the past several years. Let's begin in the year 2000 and make a pledge of \$20 a month to the ACA. That's \$240 for the year and we've been super faithful to keep up that same pledge over the past two decades. With a pat on our back and a smile on our face, we send off the pledge each spring. However, something's happened over the intervening years: our pledge has grown increasingly worth less thanks to inflation.

The \$240 we gave in 2000 would have to be increased by 2010 to \$311.63 to accomplish the same work and by 2023 (the last year for which the commerce department has their calculator operating) we'd have to give \$433.13 to accomplish what our \$240 could do back in 2000. At the diocesan level, the goal in 2000 was \$2,600,000. Just to stay even with the buying power of a dollar, that figure would have to be \$4,724,720 to get the same buying power but we struggle to raise even the 2,600,000! People often wonder why our diocesan offices seem to be doing less. It's because we're not giving them even close to what we did two decades ago.

You can apply this same measure to your Sunday offering. The \$20 you are giving just like you did in 2000 allows the parish to accomplish less than half what it used to do, whether paying for the lights or providing for ministry or stocking the shelves of our food pantry. During Lent we are supposed to be working at "almsgiving" and that means realistically examining the needs and what any one of us can do so that together we can meet the demands of our contemporary culture and economic conditions. Give it some thought and prayer as we move along toward Easter.

*Fr Chris*

### **The Celebration of Sacraments**

**Infant Baptism:** The Sacrament of Baptism is regularly celebrated during or after the Eucharistic Liturgy. Registered parishioners are asked to arrange for the Baptismal Preparation Class and the Liturgical Celebration by calling the Parish Office.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** RCIA is the process of growing in your faith and love of God. Weekly gatherings take place from September until Easter. If you are interested in learning about Catholicism and joining us please call the church @ 419-243-1829.

**Penance:** The Sacrament of Penance is celebrated at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday at IC, 9:30 a.m. at HSP and 10:30 a.m. at IC every Sunday or by appointment.

**Matrimony:** Anyone planning to be married must contact the parish at least six months in advance. The exact date and time of your wedding should not be determined until after consultation with a priest or deacon. If either party has previously been civilly or religiously married, the Presider is not permitted to set a date for the wedding without resolving the previous marriage.

**Pastoral Care of the Sick:** When a parishioner is admitted to the hospital, nursing home, or confined to home because of age or infirmity, please call the Parish Office. Parishioners are ready to visit and to bring Holy Communion. When one is seriously ill, the healing Presence of the Lord should be requested in the Sacrament of the Sick.





**Hello!**

Welcome to Immaculate Conception, where all are truly made a welcome part of our parish family, whether in Ministry, Service, or Leadership. Here, all are God’s children, their dignity as God’s own affirmed and celebrated. If you are interested in becoming a parishioner, please call the parish office at (419)243-1829. You can also find registration forms for new parishioners on the visitor’s stand at the back of the church or online at [www.iccatdarby.org](http://www.iccatdarby.org). We hope to see you again soon!

**Immaculate Conception**

<b>Finance Committee</b> Bill Carroll John Madigan Fred Mahaney Tom Meagher Mike Young	<b>Parish Council</b> Linda Garcia John Madigan Fred Mahaney Barb Marquis Louann Meagher Mary Jo Pilcher Judy Westmeyer
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CALENDAR  
April 5-13, 2025

<b>Sat.</b>	3:30 pm 4:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Confessions Immaculate Conception Mass Msgr. Chris <b>Intention: Kathy Gallagher</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	8:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 11:00 am	Historic St. Patrick Mass Msgr. Chris Historic St. Patrick Confessions Historic St. Patrick Mass Msgr. Chris Immaculate Conception Confessions Immaculate Conception Mass Fr. Rudi <b>Intention: Mary Ann Oess</b>
<b>Tue.</b>	9:10 am	IC Weekday Mass

<b>Wed.</b>	4:00 pm	HSP Adoration
<b>Sat.</b>	3:30 pm 4:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Confessions Immaculate Conception Mass Msgr. Chris <b>Intention: John Lynch</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	8:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 11:00 am	Historic St. Patrick Mass Msgr. Chris Historic St. Patrick Confessions Historic St. Patrick Mass Fr. Rudi Immaculate Conception Confessions Immaculate Conception Mass Msgr. Chris <b>Intention: Fred Garcia Jr.</b>

**Upcoming Events**

Tuesday, April 15th	NO Mass
Thursday, April 17th	Holy Thursday Mass @ 7 PM
Friday, April 18th	Stations/Rosary/Mass beginning @ 12 PM
Saturday, April 19th	Easter Vigil (@ HSP) @ 8:30 PM
Sunday, April 20th	Easter @ 11 AM



Tear here

We continue to update/add to our parish data base. Even if you think we have your correct information, please fill out the information below and put it in the offering basket or drop off at the office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_



# WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

## "THE DARBY"



### Happy Birthday!

4/7 Doug Crown  
4/8 Pete Mosqueda  
Hugo Ramirez  
Evan Wilson-Bonds  
4/10 Katrina Matthews  
4/12 Nicholas (Jim) Cisterino  
Daniel Gonzalez  
Marissa Duncan



### Happy Anniversary!

### Pray For Those Serving Our Country

Capt. Brian Wood, Army  
Joshua Teneyck First Class Petty Officer E6  
Major Jeremy A. Schiel, Army  
LTC Ryan A Schiel, Army  
SSG Acea Hindbaugh, Army  
SN Trevor Smith, Navy  
SGT Monique Losoya, Army  
SPC Elijah Hindbaugh, Army  
Vincent Caraccio, Army Reserves  
ISG Charles Hindbaugh, II  
SSG Joseph Malagon  
SGT Jasmine Hindbaugh  
LCPL Carlos Negrin III, Marines  
AO Alicia Negrin, Navy  
PVT Damian Cutcher

### Together Let Us Pray

Deacon Tom, James Laberde, Louis Laberde, Charlene Laberde, Pedro & Pauline Rodriguez, Deacon Tom, Deacon Dave, Brad Decp, Kathleen P. Lutheran, Susie Hartford, Linda Obney, Bennie Esparza Jr., Steven Ibarra, Rachael Moore, Pam Clark, Janie Caster, Joyce Scarbrough, Samual William Harper, Delfina Mora, Sr. Bermeta, Larry Schneider, Marie Irons, Dawn Adkins, Pat Foster, Quinn Murray, Gina Briggie, Amanda White, Donna Haynes, Ron & Marlene DeCosi, Lupe Contresai, Pam Wilson-Adams, Terry Byersmith, Judy Place, Sylvia Gonzales,



Mike Johnson, Maya Bautista, Maria Guadalupe Perez, Amy Meagher, Joyce Scarbrough, Pam Clark, Wendy Meagher, Janie Caster, Saba's, ACES, Bonita, TJ's, Ellyse Latoya



### STEWARDSHIP REPORT

July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

	<u>LAST WEEK</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Goal	\$ 2,404.00	\$ 125,000.00
Sat. Loose	\$ 409.00	\$ 15,158.00
Sat. Env.	\$ 525.00	\$ 24,231.00
Sun. Loose	\$ 389.00	\$ 17,027.00
Sun. Env.	\$ 605.00	\$ 37,155.00
Actual	\$ 1,928.00	\$ 93,571.00
Over/(Under)	\$ (476.00)	\$ (31,429.00)
Preservation	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 21,900.00
General Repair	\$	\$ 1,494.00
Candles	\$ 42.00	\$ 571.00
Outreach	\$ 46.00	\$ 4,467.00
Good Friday	\$ 30.00	
Easter Flowers	\$ 165.00	

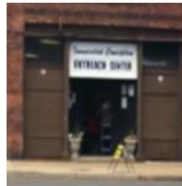
Mass Count Saturday: 41 Sunday: 124



### OUTREACH CENTER

Tuesdays 9:00 am - 11:30 pm  
\*For donation drop off only

Wednesdays 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
\*Pantry



	<u>LAST WEEK</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Families served:	44	2,176

**March Expenses: \$1,585.90**-Thank you for your donations to help keep us running!

**Donations needed: Easter Candy, dish soap, laundry detergent, fabric sheets, hygiene products, cleaning products**



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

## SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Minister/Lector Schedule

April 5-6, 2025  
Fifth Sunday of Lent

<b>1st Reading</b>	Isaiah 43:16-21
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Philippians 3:8-14
<b>Gospel Reading</b>	John 8:1-11
<b>Lector</b>	Saturday: Dan Streeter Sunday: Mike Young
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Saturday: Mary Jo Robinson John Madigan Sunday: Louann Meagher Tom Meagher

Children's Liturgy is on a break!

April 12-13, 2025  
Palm Sunday

<b>1st Reading</b>	Isaiah 50:4-7
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Philippians 2:6-11
<b>The Passion of the Lord</b>	Luke 22:14-23
<b>Lector</b>	Saturday: Becky Crabtree Sunday: Mike Young & Bill Carroll
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Saturday: Mary Jo Pilcher Dan Streeter Sunday: Cathy Carroll Louann Meagher

Children's Liturgy is on a break!

### Sanctuary Lamp



April 6 (Available)  
April 13 (Available)  
April 20 (Available)



In our attempts to pray for vocations, here's a thought...there is a prayer for vocations on the back of our Missalette. When we come into church and pick up our missalette, let's make the FIRST thing we do, be saying that prayer. As we know, prayers are answered!



We will be looking for those willing to "put their best foot forward" on Holy Thursday at the 7:00 PM mass. I have one volunteer so far, so if the other 11 could see Mary Jo, you also can be a disciple. Thanks for past years, and please consider this year.



Again this year, the Gonzalez family has asked to host the Easter Egg Hunt following the Easter mass at 11:00 AM. Please bring your kids, grandkids, and take advantage of this fun event, and of course, celebrate the risen Christ!



Two more sessions left for our study of Genesis. Even if you've missed a couple, come join us. This has been a thought provoking inward look at ourselves...great Lenten exercise!

Tear here

To best update our Veteran Plaque information we kindly ask that you fill out the information below and put it in the offering basket or drop it off at the office. Please print clearly. Thank you!

Name (first & last): \_\_\_\_\_

Military Ranking: \_\_\_\_\_





There will be students, past & present, from Queen of Apostles school selling 50/50 raffle tickets ( \$2 each or 3/\$5) after Mass the first two weekends of the month. All money raised is put towards the cost of the student pilgrimage this summer. Please clearly write your name and phone number on the back of the tickets. The winner will be announced the third weekend! Thank you & good luck!



Easter will soon be here. The beauty of Spring awaits us! We have Memorial flower donation envelopes in the front and back church locations. Please indicate your family member to be honored, and thanks, once again for your generosity in helping to celebrate Our Lord's resurrection!



The Neuestra Gente sponsored Health Fair will be visiting us on April 27th, the Sunday after Easter, from 10 AM (before mass) until 1 PM. We will have a delicious hospitality following Mass and you can get current data on blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol. Thank you Linda, for arranging this!



In a time of preparation for Easter, there are many devotions that have been offered over the years. Many movies have been made portraying the last days of Christ before His death and resurrection. On Wednesday evenings at 6PM beginning April 2nd, we will present the following movies:

Wednesday, April 2nd: **Godspell**

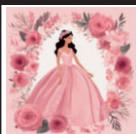
Wednesday, April 9th: **Jesus Christ, Super Star**

Wednesday, April 16th (Holy Week):

**Mel Gibsons, The Passion of the Christ**

We invite Jr. High and High School kids to attend these movies, and see how the teens of the 1980s were introduced to these greatest acts of love by our Lord!

The side parking lot door will be open for your entry. There is no charge, but donations may be made to the teens trying to get to Italy. I hope you can join us!



Are you or someone else you know planning on having a Quinceañera at Immaculate Conception in 2025 or 2026? If so, plan on attending a **mandatory** retreat on April 26th.

**This MUST be attended to hold a Quinceañera anytime from May 2025-May 2026 at Immaculate Conception.**

This retreat will also have a parent component that **must** be attended. The cost of the retreat is \$50. Contact Nicole to get registered (419-243-1829).

**LAST WEEK TO REGISTER!**



Take a look at the schedule of Holy Week events in the bulletin! The Easter Triduum, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday give us the story of God's great love for us, in sending His only Son to redeem us. Please attend the services on Holy Thursday at 7 PM, Good Friday from noon to 3 PM, and Easter. The Vigil Mass with the initiation of our parishioners who will enter the Church through, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, will be celebrated at Historic St. Patrick's beginning at 8:30 PM. There's plenty of seating for all to attend this beautiful service. Easter Sunday will be our 11:00 AM Mass.



Outreach is collecting any Easter items that can be used to make baskets. They would like to give out 40 baskets this year.

Items needed: baskets, candy, any little stuffed animals, bubbles, etc. If you have any questions feel free to call Natalie at (419)481-0858.



As we continue to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope, kindly join us for the celebration of the annual Chrism Mass during which the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens are blessed; the Sacred Chrism is consecrated; and our diocesan and religious priests renew their priestly promises. We invite all the faithful of the Diocese of Toledo to "pray for your Priests, that the Lord may pour out his gifts abundantly upon them, and keep them faithful as ministers of Christ, the High Priest, so that they may lead you to him, who is the source of salvation" (Roman Missal, Chrism Mass, Renewal of Priestly Promises).

Parish representatives from around the diocese will be present and will take the blessed/ consecrated oils back to their communities to be used in the celebration of the sacraments during the next year.

**YOU ARE MOST CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THE Chrism Mass WHICH** will be celebrated by Bishop Daniel E. Thomas on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 15, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo.



**Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors:** Those that receive a paper copy of the schedule may pick up their copy from the counter in the Chapel.



## Immaculate Conception and The Historic Church of Saint Patrick Holy Week Schedule 2025

### Saturday – April 12

4:00 pm @ Immaculate Conception - Blessing & Distribution of Palms/Mass

### Palm Sunday – April 13

8:00 am @ Historic St. Patrick - Blessing & Distribution of Palms/Sunday Mass

10:00 am @ Historic St. Patrick - Blessing & Distribution of Palms/Sunday Mass

11:00 am @ Immaculate Conception - Blessing & Distribution of Palms/Sunday Mass

### Tuesday – April 15

11:00 am Chrism Mass at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral

### Wednesday – April 16

7:30 pm Tenebrae at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral

7:30 pm Tenebrae in Port Clinton w/ Msgr. Chris Vasko, All are welcome

### Holy Thursday – April 17

7:00 pm @ Historic St. Patrick - Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00 pm @ Immaculate Conception - Mass of the Lord's Supper

### Good Friday – April 18

#### Immaculate Conception

12:00 pm @ Immaculate Conception - Stations of the Cross

12:30 pm @ Immaculate Conception - Rosary

1:00 pm @ Immaculate Conception - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

#### Historic St. Patrick

12:00 Noon @ Historic St. Patrick - Stations of the Cross

12:40 pm @ Historic St. Patrick - Rosary

1:00 pm @ Historic St. Patrick - Meditative Music

1:30 pm @ Historic St. Patrick - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

### Holy Saturday – April 19

9:00 am @ Historic St. Patrick - RCIA/OCIA Rehearsal

11:30 am @ Historic St. Patrick - Blessing of Easter Food

8:30 pm @ Historic St. Patrick - Easter Vigil

### Easter Sunday – April 20

8:00 am @ Historic St. Patrick - Easter Mass

10:00 am @ Historic St. Patrick - Easter Mass

11:00 am @ Immaculate Conception - Easter Mass

All are welcome! Please join us.

## Easter Flowers

### In Memory of:

Mary Hauke

Arlen Morrin

Fred Garcia Jr.

Frank & Virginia Meagher

Eileen & Lee Harrison

Joy Meagher

William Wiedemann Jr.

Charles C. Donohue family

The Schiel family

The Nehiser family

Lois Milks

Don & Gerri Grey

David Grey

Dennis Grey

Michelle Irons

Charles Irons

Deceased Marquis family

Deceased Zaper family

Charlene Thomas

Harvey Parker Sr.

Alexina Parker

Harvey Parker Jr.

David Barker

Leonard M.

### In Honor of:

Betty Morrin

# Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



## AI: A Catholic Perspective

"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and so make a name for ourselves..." (Genesis 11:4)

The fact that people used bricks and mortar to build the Tower of Babel was not the problem. The problem, rather, was the intention behind the construction of a tower. In a similar way, we have a new tool at our fingertips – artificial intelligence technologies – that we must engage. Artificial intelligence is impacting us all – teachers and students in schools, parents in homes, working professionals in their careers, and more. It is vital for us to learn about this new technology and carefully discern our approach to implementing it, ensuring that our intentions remain focused on building the Kingdom of God.



Pope Francis has called artificial intelligence "an exciting and fearsome tool."<sup>1</sup> On the one hand, these tools can allow users more efficiently to complete tasks in minimal time, advance human understanding in vital areas like medical research, and enhance access to publicly available sources. On the other hand, there are significant concerns about this technology, including what safeguards are necessary to protect sensitive data, what a hyper-focus on efficiency might do to the human person, and how excessive use of these tools might impact human development. As a result, our approach to this technology must be intentional and respectful of human dignity.

### What is artificial intelligence?

Artificial intelligence refers to the field of study related to machine replication of aspects of human behavior, including simulating problem-solving capacities or generating content. One of the most commonly available types of artificial intelligence technologies is generative artificial intelligence. Broadly speaking, generative artificial intelligence tools produce responses to human inputs based on predictive algorithms – sets of rules that machines use to interpret data and produce results – equipped with and trained on large datasets. These tools are often highly interactive and responsive. The capabilities of these technologies are truly breathtaking, and development – both in the technology itself and how we interface with it – continues at a rapid pace.

Our approach to this technology should be informed by our worldview as Catholics. In addition to the Holy Father's comments, the Church has issued formal teaching in *Antiqua et nova*<sup>2</sup> and has been involved in dialogue, seeking to guide builders of these technologies through summits like the "Rome Call for AI Ethics"<sup>3</sup> and inform policy and best practice development about artificial intelligence through forums like the recently-held meeting on "Risks and Opportunities of AI for Children."<sup>4</sup>

Our approach must also be informed by history. For our entire history, we have interacted with our surroundings using various forms of "technologies," ranging from simple tools like knives to much more complex tools like cell phones. Our Holy Father has even described us as living in a

"techno-human condition," suggesting that we "have always maintained a relationship with the environment mediated by the tools [we] gradually produced."<sup>5</sup> Under this view, it is mostly incumbent on the user of the tool to use the tool to bring about good. As Pope Francis notes, though, there are features that make artificial intelligence technologies even more complex and potentially unique, so we must carefully consider a principled approach.

### How should Catholics approach artificial intelligence?

Simply put, we should use artificial intelligence technologies only as tools to support human flourishing and should avoid using them to replace those activities and capacities that are distinctly human in nature.

This basic principle suggests that any conversation about artificial intelligence ultimately will return to this question: What does it mean to be human?

We are in an age in which anthropological questions abound, and this new technology again brings this question to the forefront. Our discernment as a Church must be rooted in Christ's witness because ultimately, it is Christ in His humanity who teaches us what it means to be human. Allow me to highlight three God-given capacities that are foundationally human.

#### 1. Free Will

One of the foundational characteristics of humankind is free will. If we find that we are relying on forms of artificial intelligence, which are nonhuman, to make moral or ethical decisions for us instead of forming our own consciences to then make the decision ourselves, we have significantly erred. It is quite possible that the use of external tools may be part of a decision-making process, but we must be clear not to cede our use of free will to an algorithm.

#### 2. Intellect

God has blessed each human person with the gift of intellect. It can seem that our intellectual capacities are minimal compared to these machines, which can immediately produce results with high levels of accuracy. The purpose of our intellect, though, is not merely production. It is imperative to remember that artificial intelligence technologies have features that give them "sophisticated abilities to perform tasks, but not the ability to think."<sup>6</sup> God gave us an intellectual capacity that we might pursue a relationship with Him and build the Kingdom here on earth. While actions like reasoning, judging, and discerning may be aided by using artificial intelligence technologies, we must ensure that any use of technology supports these capacities and their ultimate purpose.

#### 3. Love

The capacity for love of each other and of God lies at the core of our being. The supplementing of human-to-human

relationships with human-to-machine relationships is a dangerous step, often with disastrous outcomes. A "relationship" with an artificial intelligence "companion" (a personalized tool designed for either professional or personal use) is merely a mimicry of the reality and richness of human relationship. We must even be cautious about excessively relying on external technologies to mediate our relationships with God. Digital technologies may help us to discover prayers, find ancient texts, or set reminders to pray, but we ought to be wary of any attempts to replace something truly human in nature – the longing for God – with any technology.

Thus, we should begin by evaluating the impact of a technology on each of these three capacities, ensuring that it does not impede our ability 1) to use free will, 2) to develop and apply our intellect, or 3) to love. Beyond that, we must use any technology strictly as a tool to support human flourishing and consider the impact that our use may have on ourselves, each other, and our society more broadly.

### Conclusion

Because of the anthropological issues at the core of our discernment, the Church must continue to be active in the broader, public conversation about the proper role of artificial intelligence in our lives. As Pope Francis has said, "[i]t is now safe to assume that its use will increasingly influence the way we live, our social relationships and even the way we conceive of our identity as human beings."<sup>7</sup>

This calls for us to be active in respectful dialogue and careful discernment. In the Diocese of Toledo, the Pastoral Center staff has begun to explore artificial intelligence, and particular departments are working with their colleagues throughout the diocese thoughtfully to engage the topic. For example, the Department of Catholic Education has worked with Catholic school leaders throughout this year to consider the impact of artificial intelligence on teachers, students, and families and to design policies and learning experiences accordingly. This dialogue and discernment must continue throughout the Diocese of Toledo.

As we navigate together the evolving digital landscape, we commit ourselves not to use this new technology to build a tower to advance our own names but to advance the Kingdom of God.

+ Daniel E. Thomas

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo  
March 25, 2025

<sup>1</sup> AI: An Exciting and Fearsome Tool  
<sup>2</sup> *Antiqua et nova*

<sup>3</sup> *Rome Call for AI Ethics*  
<sup>4</sup> *Risks and Opportunities of AI for Children*

<sup>5</sup> AI: An Exciting and Fearsome Tool  
<sup>6</sup> *Antiqua et nova*

<sup>7</sup> AI: An Exciting and Fearsome Tool



## Diocese of Toledo Prayer for Vocations

*Aimighty God, make me an instrument to encourage others to give of themselves and challenge me to do the same. Inspire men and women to respond generously to your call to service and leadership in your church as priests, consecrated religious and deacons. Amen*

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