The Foundation is working hard to address the impact of AI on humanity. We are pleased to inform all CAPPF members and supporters that our Foundation, in collaboration with the Strategic *Alliance of Catholic Research Universities* (SACRU) and the Dicastery for Culture and Education, is participating in the third joint research project on the theme ***'Artificial Intelligence and Care for the Younger Generation'***. The first two joint research projects, carried out in collaboration between CAPPF and SACRU, were: *"More Women in Leadership for a Better* World" and *"Artificial Intelligence and Care for Our Common Home: a Focus on Industries, Finance, Education and Communication*".

This research, coordinated – as with previous studies – by our member and member of the Scientific Committee, Anna Maria Tarantola, stems from the invitation extended by Pope Leo XIV to the participants in the previous joint research project 'Artificial *Intelligence and Care of Our Common Home: A Focus on Industries, Finance, Education and* Communication', during the private audience on 5 December 2025. On that occasion, the Holy Father expressed his appreciation for the work carried out and encouraged us to continue exploring the implications of artificial intelligence, with particular attention to the younger generations. Among other things, the Pope stated that:

"And here it is important to pause and reflect on a concern that must touch our hearts: the freedom and spirituality of our children and young people, and the potential impact of technology on their intellectual and neurological development. The younger generations must be helped, not hindered, on their journey towards maturity and responsibility. "…" It will therefore be essential to enable young people to learn about and use these tools with their own intelligence, open to the search for truth and to a spiritual and fraternal life, broadening their dreams and the scope of their mature decisions."

The Pope's concern for the younger generations was clear, as was his call to continue analysing, exploring and researching the measures needed to make artificial intelligence a useful tool for the integral development of humanity and of the younger generations.

Following a preparatory phase, work began in earnest in June 2026; twenty-six academics and experts from 12 universities and institutions across 11 countries around the world have joined the project. According to the timetable agreed with the authors, the various contributions are due to be submitted to the publisher Vita e Pensiero by

the end of March 2027, so that the complete work, printed in English, can be presented to Pope Leo XIV in June 2027, hopefully during a private audience.

This research topic, which is particularly sensitive and complex, is addressed through a multidisciplinary approach. It comprises 20 articles divided into five sections that examine the effects of the rapid and uncontrolled development of various forms of AI and their widespread use by young people on their holistic development, including a chapter on the effects on their mental health; on the world of education; on economic aspects; on regulation; and on the related ethical foundations and the resulting issues of agency and responsibility. These are all matters of great significance and interest, which are addressed in the light of the Social Doctrine of the Digital Age outlined by Pope Leo XIV in *Magnifica Humanitas*. The authors aim not only to analyse the situation scientifically, highlighting its opportunities but above all its darker aspects, but also to propose concrete actions to ensure that AI is truly a tool at the service of Magnifica Humanitas and, in particular, of young people, rather than an end in itself for a handful of major manufacturers.

We are during a technological revolution that is bringing about unimaginable developments at a pace that often exceeds human capacity for understanding and governance.

We Catholics must all feel a sense of responsibility towards this development and use our discernment to help find solutions that enable adults and young people to live in this environment without danger or undue influence.

Prof. Anna Maria Tarantola