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What AI Can't Replace: A Catholic Perspective

Ave Maria University offers free online course that provides the faithful with an intellectually rigorous response to today's most pressing technological questions

AVE MARIA, Fla., Jan. 28, 2026 – Artificial intelligence consistently dominates headlines and raises profound questions about human dignity, truth, and the nature of intelligence itself. In an effort to help Catholics better understand AI, both its positive and negative aspects, Ave Maria University has launched a new [Pursuit of Wisdom](#) course designed to bring clarity, balance, and Catholic wisdom to the conversation: “[Demystifying Artificial Intelligence from a Catholic Perspective](#).”

Produced by Ave Maria University and taught by computer scientist Dr. Saverio Perugini, the course offers a sober, intellectually grounded exploration of what AI is — and what it is not — through the lenses of philosophy, theology, literature, and computer science.

“Artificial intelligence has become a kind of modern myth, alternately feared and idolized,” said Dr. Perugini, professor of mathematics and computer science at Ave Maria University. “This course aims to strip away the hype and help people understand AI truthfully, without exaggeration or despair, and always in light of the Church’s teaching on the human person.”

Watch the “Demystifying Artificial Intelligence from a Catholic Perspective” trailer:
https://youtu.be/wL28F5hchYQ?si=HO2Pg_ifkPD21bRi.

Rather than treating AI as a threat to faith or a substitute for human intelligence, the course presents it as a limited, man-made tool, powerful in narrow domains, but fundamentally incapable of replacing human reason, creativity, or the soul. Drawing on Church documents,

classic philosophical arguments, and literary works such as “Frankenstein,” “Brave New World” and “1984,” the course helps participants recognize why claims of machine “understanding,” “consciousness,” or artificial immortality ultimately fall short of reality.

The course also engages timely concerns facing Catholic educators, parents, clergy and professionals, including data privacy, bias, misinformation and the growing temptation to trust machines over human judgment. Particular attention is given to the Church’s recent reflections on AI and technology, affirming that authentic progress must always serve the dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God.

“Demystifying Artificial Intelligence from a Catholic Perspective,” and all the Pursuit of Wisdom courses, can be accessed via <https://thepursuitofwisdom.org> and the free Pursuit of Wisdom app, available to download on major app store platforms.

For additional information, or to schedule an interview with Dr. Perugini, please contact Kevin Wandra of Carmel Communications: kwandra@carmelcommunications.com or 404-788-1276.

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About Ave Maria University

Ave Maria University is a Catholic institution of higher learning located in Ave Maria, Florida. Ave Maria University was established in 2003 as a Catholic university, according to the guidelines of the Code of Canon Law by the Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida. The recognition of Ave Maria University as a Catholic university is granted upon the university’s commitment to continue to be guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church and faithfulness to the apostolic constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. Ave Maria University is committed to helping its students develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life and grow in their appreciation of truth. The goal of AMU is simple: to build the foundation of a truly Catholic university that forms future generations of truly Catholic men and women faithful to the Magisterium of the Church. For more information about Ave Maria University, please visit www.avemaria.edu.