

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

FIVE TAKE AWAYS FROM MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS

This past week, Pope Leo XIV released his first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, Magnificent Humanity, in which he raises concerns to the Church and the world about the dangers of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Here are five take aways from the encyclical. The unifying image of the letter is taken from Scripture as Pope Leo contrasts the Tower of Babel with the rebuilding of Jerusalem by Nehemiah. Our choice is whether choose to build the modern city with God given values that respect the dignity of the human person or man-made values of efficiency, production, and profit.

IN THE LINE OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Pope Leo clearly states that he is writing to further the Church's social doctrine begun by his namesake, Pope Leo XIII in 1891. In the first part of the letter, he reviews the history of the development of the social doctrine of the Church and enumerates the principles that guide reflection on the many issues that we face in the modern world. The principles are the equal dignity of all human beings and the supreme value of human rights, the common good, the universal destination of goods, subsidiarity, solidarity, and social justice (or preferential option for the poor).

AN APOLOGY FOR THE CHURCH'S INVOLVMENT IN SLAVERY

While reflecting on technology's ability to collect massive amounts of data and the potential to misuse that information to the detriment of people, Pope Leo warns about the modern forms of slavery, especially human trafficking, that are fueled by available technologies. He urges a speedy and total condemnation of modern slavery to not repeat the sins of the past when the church was slow and hesitant to condemn the slave trade and slavery itself. He writes, "This constitutes a wound in Christian memory, one from which we cannot consider ourselves detached. It is impossible not to feel deep sorrow when contemplating the immense suffering and humiliation endured by so many in stark contrast to their immeasurable dignity as persons infinitely loved by the Lord, for this, in the name of the Church, I sincerely ask for pardon. (176)

THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE HUMAN PERSON IS GREATER THAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The God given dignity of every human person endows human intelligence with a gift of transcendence that cannot be duplicated by artificial intelligence. The very limitations that human beings face open the way for greater compassion, concern for others, generosity and a greater desire and openness to God. In our human struggles, we become "more than human" by the grace of Jesus Christ. Artificial intelligence cannot duplicate this. AI does not have a heart, and it does not have a conscience. Although AI may bring significant advancements and benefits, we must always be vigilant that it does not undermine humanity.

PROTECTION OF THE DIGNITY OF WORK

Artificial intelligence has already and will continue to eliminate jobs. We must never lose a profound respect for the dignity of work and workers. Human labor is our participation in the creative activity of God. We are co-creators and co-laborers with him. Every effort must be made to provide meaningful forms of work for people that enhances their dignity as a child of God and allow them to earn a living wage to support their families. Workers who are displaced by technology must be given the opportunity to retrain and develop skills for other jobs. The labor market must have as its focus the human person and not just efficient production.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SERVICE OF THE TRUTH

AI has the capacity to produce massive amounts of information as well as misinformation. We already experience countless times when social media produces false life like images that are meant to sow confusion, fear, and doubt. When society loses its respect for the truth, we lose any objective criteria for what is real and unreal, right and wrong. Truth then becomes what a person wants it to be for their own advantage and profit.

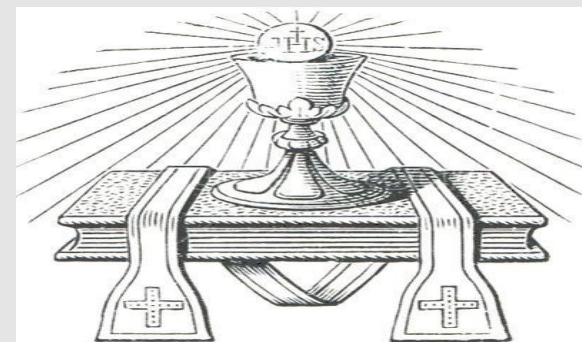
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY ~ MAY 31, 2026

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
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Immaculate Conception Church is a Black Catholic Church
servicing the family of God and feeding the soul of the Community.

PASTOR: Father Thomas F. Clark, S.J.(225) 775-7067/(225) 773-2036
IN RESIDENCE: Father Fred Kammer, S.J.(504) 343-9195
SECRETARY: Renae Welsh/John Edwards.....(225) 775-7067
PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:
COORDINATOR: Gloria DeRouen(225) 936-8162
ASSISTANT TO COORDINATOR: Stephanie Yearby (214) 881-5663
OCIA COORDINATOR: Cathy Glover(225) 772-6099
MLK/SU CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER:
Joyce Johnson - Wilfred Johnson(225) 775-8691



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel
12:10 PM



MISSIONARY VISIT NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, June 6-7, Father Solomon Nwokocho of Mary, Mother of Mankind Parish in Saint Michael Mission, Arizona will be with us to ask for our prayers and financial support for the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico. We will have a second collection at all the Masses. Please be generous to this mission appeal.

THE FEAST OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD

On the weekend of June 6-7, we celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord (Corpus Christi). After the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass and the 8:00 AM Mass, there will be 30 minutes of Adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist. After the 10:30 AM Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration until 2:00 PM. Father Clark asks that parish ministries and organizations plan to spend time together in Adoration during these times. There will be a sign-up sheet for those who will commit to 30 minutes of Adoration following the 10:30 AM Mass so that we will always have at least two people in the church until 2:00 PM.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Vacation Bible School will be held on June 16, 17, and 18, 2026, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. Registration is open to Church members with children ages 4 through 12. Registration forms are available in the foyer of the Church and can be completed after each Mass or at home. **Please return the completed form by June 8, 2026.**



CONGRATULATIONS, 2026 GRADUATES



HIGH SCHOOL

Clarke Carter-Saint Joseph Academy
Jacob Freeman-Woodlawn
James Freeman III-Woodlawn
Cameron Griffin-Baton Rouge Magnet
Tyler Washington-Scotlandville Magnet

Roman Johnson- SU Lab School
Alexander Knight- Zachary
Kazi Murray- Brusly
Roman Johnson- SU Lab School
Dylan Richard- Liberty Magnet

COLLEGE

Kevin Walker, Jr. BRCC AS in Computer and Information Systems

Amber Swayzer, Southern University BS in Criminal Justice

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Tobechuku Aghadinuno, Southern University-MS Biology

La'Donna Turnipseed Allen, Trinity Law School-MA Legal Studies

Osazuwa Awanbor, Southern University-MS Engineering Management

Aliyah Wilcox, Washington U in Saint Louis-MSW

Tierra Butler, Southern University Law Center-Juris Doctor



CLARENCE	EDGAR, SR.	6/1
ALBERT	JOHNSON, JR.	6/1
DANIEL	BROCK	6/1
ROBIN	ROGERS	6/1
LATOYA	WILLIAMS	6/1
CHAISE	BIAS	6/2
CHRISTINA	ROSAYA	6/2
OCTAVIA	WILSON	6/2
KAYLIN	EASTON	6/3
JARED	ODOM	6/3
PAUL	RICHARD	6/3
MELANIE	WALKER	6/3
ALIYAH	WILCOX	6/3
KEISHA	FITZGERALD	6/4
VICTORIA	RAMBO	6/4
ANGELA	CRAVANAS	6/4
ALLEN	VITAL	6/4
KRISTIN	LIVINGSTON	6/5
BENJAMIN	OMILI	6/5
REYNA	ANDERSON	6/7
LEA	COX	6/7
ZACCHAEUS	GLOVER	6/7
JULIA	NAVARRE	6/7



Join us on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the MLK Center for "Jazz on the Bluff" as we celebrate Juneteenth with live music, dancing, fellowship, and light refreshments.

Tickets on sale now and can be purchased after all Masses while supplies last.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person, and light refreshments will be served. Come dressed in your favorite Juneteenth T-shirt or festive attire and celebrate with us in style on this exciting event—we look forward to seeing you there!

**SAVE THE DATE
FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION**

Celebrate our Kings and Heroes!

Father's Day Breakfast and Free Haircuts on Sunday, June 21 from 9 AM to 11 AM in the Parish Activity Center. Hosted by the KPC Ladies' Auxiliary and the Junior Daughters, Wilfred B. Ricard, Court 116.

**Weekly Mass Readings
June 1st—June 7th**

Sunday
The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Exodus 34: 4b-6, 8-9
2 Corinthians 13: 11-13
John 3: 16-18

Monday
Memorial of Saint Justin, Martyr
2 Peter 1: 2-7
Mark 12: 1-12

Tuesday
Ninth Week in Ordinary Time
2 Peter 3: 12-15a, 17-18
Mark 12: 13-17

Wednesday
Memorial of Saint Charles Lwanga And Companions, Martyrs
2 Timothy 1: 1-3, 6-12
Mark 12: 18-27

Thursday
2 Timothy 2: 8-15
Mark 12: 28-34

Friday
2 Timothy 3: 10-17
Mark 12: 35-37

Saturday
2 Timothy 4: 1-8
Mark 12: 38-44

Sunday
The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14b-16a
1 Corinthians 10: 16-17
John 6: 51-58