



Good morning Holy Cross Friends.

Today we have only two brief articles both reflecting on AI. One is by Br Laurence Finn CP and the second one is by Fr Brian Traynor CP. I think both articles balance each other well. For speed readers, this will take only 47 seconds!

Br Laurence CP:

Br Laurence's brief reflection is on the "Antiqua et Nova" Church Document.

As indicated in the previous Newsletter and as Fr Mike noted during Mass on Sunday, Laurence -often referred to as Larry, is on a visiting trip at Holy Cross until October 6th. It has been wonderful to have him around especially that Chris and Brian are away. Here is a bit more about him, in addition to what Brian wrote last week. Thank you Laurence for kindly accepting my request to share your wisdom with us.



Born in Sault Ste Marie, Canada, in 1948 and professed as a Passionist in 1968, Laurence studied at the University of Kentucky, Jefferson C.C., obtaining the R.N. License in nursing in 1972, followed by the B.A. degree in Theology in 1975 from Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. Since 1975, he has served as a missionary in South Korea, where he has held many administrative positions. He spent seven years in Rome from 1989 until 1995, where he served as the personal secretary of the Passionist Superior General.

Upon returning to Korea, he became involved in ministry to AIDS patients, working with Religious Sisters from various Congregations. Laurence has served for six years as President of the Passionists in the Asia-Pacific Configuration (2012 thru 2017). He has served as Novice Director of the Passionist International Novitiate, first in Australia and then in Vietnam, (2015 thru 2023). He has been serving in the same International Novitiate in the Philippines to the present day as a lecturer.

The following is the reflection he wrote on the "Antiqua et Nova"

Antiqua et Nova (Br Laurence CP):

In January this year, the Holy See released a document on “AI,” or artificial intelligence. It was assigned the title “Ancient and New.” It grapples with the wonder that is AI today. It is also deeply aware of how this new tool could be used, potentially not only for human development and happiness but also for manipulating and controlling persons and societies today.



Among the closing words of this document are these thoughts about the purpose of AI and its usefulness: *The vast expanse of the world’s knowledge is now accessible in ways that would have filled past generations with awe. However, to ensure that advancements in knowledge do not become humanly or spiritually barren, one must go beyond the mere accumulation of data and strive to achieve true wisdom. (Antiqua et Nova, 113)*

The Passionist Charism speaks to us about what true wisdom is all about. All real wisdom comes about by accepting that our human family is diverse in many ways. That difficulty in discerning what is real wisdom in our contemporary human experience, and perhaps more importantly, what it is not.



The wisdom of God is revealed to us through the sufferings and death of Jesus. That event, where God reveals that even in our pain, we can find his love and gain the courage to become men and women who love despite that pain. This wisdom of God is not an easy truth to understand or implement in our daily lives. The pain of the heart is equal to the pain of our bodies as we grapple with this mystery of finding God’s love crucified on a tree.



The example of Mary, his mother, and his beloved disciple John, standing silently beneath the cross of the Crucified Christ, is at times the only response to witnessing or experiencing deep, heartfelt pain. Silence, stillness, and being present to those whom we witness on all the various crosses we have in our lives today. When we find ourselves Crucified with Jesus, we can only thank our patient God and our brothers and sisters who stand with us as we suffer.

Artificial intelligence is a quick and easy way to discover more about our world and the wider universe.

The more we know, the more we celebrate God’s creation and its infinite variety. But we are human beings. We live not only with intelligence, but with our weaknesses and ignorance as well. Even in our weaknesses, we can find the real wisdom of entering God’s Kingdom, even in our sinfulness and our personal sufferings. Loving others is more important than what we know, in loving others we approach God’s throne with the wisdom displayed by Jesus. It is certain knowledge that is not artificial but divine.



The AI Race Accelerates (Brian)

The Morning Dispatch

(Ross Anderson and Charlotte Lawson)

August 11th 2025



“The world’s largest tech companies are engaged in an artificial intelligence arms race, with trillions of dollars in research and development and the world’s top development talent competing to build the best AI. New releases are constant, with additional thresholds being broken almost weekly.

August 7th saw OpenAI unveil its long-awaited GPT-5 model which the company described as its “smartest, fastest, most useful model yet.” Rather than users choosing which way the model should approach their request, GPT-5 now dynamically decides whether a question can be answered quickly, needs more thought, or requires an internet search. ChatGPT claims that 700,000,000 people are currently using their product.



And yet, OpenAI’s was just one release in a week packed with new AI announcements. On Tuesday, Anthropic released a 4.1 update to its Opus model, which is now even more capable at handling complex tasks and coding. On the same day, Google released arguably the most advanced video generator ever, Genie 3 which can create

consistent, navigable 3D spaces. ElevenLabs and Producer AI released competing music generation models last week – both of which are capable of creating songs that sound very close to actual music. And FLUX.1 Krea came out specialising in creating images that resemble actual photographs.



In a vacuum, each of those releases is significant enough to warrant a news story on its own, but the pace of AI development is so rapid that pretty much every announcement is quickly surpassed by another. The same will surely be true next week.”

In last week’s newsletter Brian included a poem titled ‘A Child at Christmas’, written by former Passionist student, Ray Reid. One of our Vietnamese Passionists, Peter Danh loved the poem and with the help of AI has created a song using the lyrics from the poem which he sent it to Brian.

Peter divided the poem into parts to create a chorus, a bridge and an outro. He added some words into lyrics to make it smoother. This is a very real example of what can be done with AI (or if we call it 'pattern machines').

Have a listen:

https://song.do/play_music/da5344745fe8abaf3140d6e908e1cc41?utm_source=s hare

Congratulations

Bro Jerome's Birthday: Today, September 26th, we celebrate Jerome's 86th birthday. Below is a photo of him in his younger days, full of joy, and we're happy to say that joy still shines through today. We pray for his continued happiness (though we won't pray for a younger-looking face, he still looks young as ever!). In another photo, Jerome is pictured with his dear friends, the late Fr Tim O'Toole CP (in the black habit) and Br Martin Lusk CP. Jerome often jokes that Tim "went without permission." Fittingly, Tim's birthday would have been on September 30th, just a few days from now.

Happy Birthday, Jerome! We're sure Tim is raising a glass or two from above in honour of your special day.



Vince Celestino's birthday is 84 tomorrow, September 27th

Gerry and Pat Bond



Gerry and Pat celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a Mass and anointing in Woodlands nursing home last week.

Despite many months in hospital or rehab, Gerry (93) remains bright and positive as does Pat (90) keen to acknowledge their wonderful years together. Gerry and Pat renewed their wedding vows and compared with the promise of 'in sickness and health' all those years ago, they now have full knowledge and proof of living those vows faithfully.

The A-Team Tavern Renovation Project

The A-Team have begun painting the Tavern, and their hard work is already showing. As you can see in the photo on the left, Joe Senzo (pretending to look exhausted) brings plenty of cheer to the job, keeping spirits high along the way. I may appear in the photo too, but I can't claim any credit for the painting itself! The plan is to complete one room each week, though, as with all good projects, that depends on how smoothly things go. Whatever the pace, we're truly grateful to the A-Team for their dedication and energy.



Humour (sourced by Brian & Erick)



1. I never thought orthopaedic shoes would really work for me. But I stand corrected.
2. I wrote a book on how to fall down the stairs. It's a step by step guide.
3. My son was chewing on electric cords, so I had to ground him. it's ok though, he's doing better and conducting himself properly.
4. My friend claims that he accidentally glued himself to his autobiography, but I don't believe him. But that his story and he's sticking to it.

5. An armed man ran into a real estate shop and shouted. Nobody move.....
6. I asked the surgeon if I could administer my own anaesthetic. He said, sure. Go ahead! Knock yourself out!
7. I got into a fight today with 1,3,5,7 and 9. The odds were really against me.
8. A man walked into a bar with a chequered flag. The barman said "I hope you're not going to start anything here".
9. A skydiver and instructor peered 3000 metres below. The instructor said "There is nothing to worry about. Jump, count to three and pull the cord. If it doesn't work, pull the reserve cord. A truck below will pick you up". The skydiver took a big breath and jumped. He pulled the cord and nothing happened. He pulled the reserve cord and some large cobwebs flew past. Then he said "Darn. I bet the truck won't be there either".
10. Overheard at the race track. "Horse racing is very romantic. The horse hugs the rails; the jockey puts his arms around the horse and you kiss your money goodbye".
11. A critic called the editor of a newspaper to report his review of a new play. The editor asked, "Did it have a happy ending?" Yes said the reviewer, everyone was happy when it was over!"
12. A professor walked into a bar. "I'll have a martinus, please". The barman said, "You mean martini!". "No", said the professor, if I wanted two, I'd have asked for them".

A lot of women say their husband never listens to them. I am proud to say I have never heard my wife say that.

I gave my wife a glue stick instead of lipstick by accident. She's still not talking to me.

Someone tried to sell me a coffin today. I said that's the last thing I need.

While setting up a voice recognition password on my new phone, a dog barked nearby and ran away. Now I'm looking for that dog to unlock my phone...

It's almost October, which means all of the cobwebs and dust in my house will soon become Halloween decorations.

I'm a huge fan of saying, "YOU'RE WELCOME" really loudly when people don't say thank you.

Crossing things off my to-do list... I haven't done any of them, I just don't want them on my list anymore.

**If you ever think English is not a weird language just remember that read and lead rhyme and read and lead rhyme.
But read and lead don't rhyme, and neither do read and lead.**

I asked my mom if she can pick me up because I don't like this sleepover and she said, "No, you're 47 and that's your wife and kids."

One spelling mistake can ruin your marriage. I accidentally texted my wife: "I'm having a great time. I wish you were her."

I just paid my taxes. The roads should be fixed any day now.

When your wife starts a sentence with "When you get a chance..." just go ahead and start putting your shoes on. She means now.

If laziness were an Olympic sport, I'd make sure to come in 4th place... just so I wouldn't have to walk up to the podium.

**Remember when you could refer to your knees as right and left instead of good and bad?
Good times.**

The best way to save money is to go in the house and lay down.



Prayers

We remember those who have died and especially those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially [Bro Charles Mercieca CP](#), [Salvatore Musumeci](#), [Frank Ryan](#), [Peter Vigilante](#), [Mario Molinaro](#), [Barry Langley](#), We pray they have found joy in God's eternal presence.



We pray for members of our Holy Cross family who are coping with illness and all who care for them, especially

[Gerry Bond](#) [Pam Storey](#), [Noel Smyth](#), [Anne Woon](#), [Fergus Ryan](#), [Kate Lenic](#), [Maria Di Giantomasso](#), [Nello Campomizzi](#), [Denise Egan](#), [Lesley Yang](#), [Peter Addicoat](#), [Greg Agosta](#), [Dr Peter Heffernan](#), [Nancy Reynolds](#), [Caroline Meade](#), [Phil Drew](#), [Marilyn Cilmi](#), [Caroline Hagedorn](#), [Rex Cambry](#), [Jeanelle Bergin](#), [Peter Barry](#), [Maureen Barns](#), [Peter & Bernadette Owen](#), [Fr Brendan Lane](#), [Alexander Lim](#), [Carol Battistella](#), [Graham Burke](#), [Luke Norden](#), [Zoe & Sophia Chung](#), [Pam Gartland](#), [Anne Burke](#), [Doris Castro](#), [Rod Gorfine](#), [Patricia Keeghan](#), [Julia Cantone](#), [Helen McLean](#), [Bro Jerome](#), [Anne Jenkins](#) and [Errol Lovett](#).

Mass online

Chris will send the link for Sunday Mass, on Saturday afternoon.

God bless,

Brian and Erick.