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THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

LOUIS F. KIHNEMAN

BY THE MERCY OF GOD AND THE GRACE OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE

BISHOP OF BILOXI

DECREE OF PROMULGATION

Policy of the Diocese of Biloxi Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence

The mission of the Church, entrusted to us by Christ, calls us to proclaim the Gospel in every age while exercising prudent stewardship over the tools and technologies that shape human life and society. In the present moment, marked by the rapid development and widespread use of artificial intelligence, the Church is obliged to ensure that such technologies are employed in a manner consistent with human dignity, moral responsibility, and the teachings of the Gospel.

Mindful of this responsibility, and attentive to the guidance of the universal Church, it is with pastoral care and due deliberation that I hereby promulgate the *Policy of the Diocese of Biloxi Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence*, as a policy governing the responsible, ethical, and transparent use of artificial intelligence within diocesan entities, ministries, and institutions.

This policy seeks to promote the legitimate benefits of artificial intelligence while establishing clear principles and boundaries to safeguard the dignity of the human person, protect privacy, ensure accountability, and preserve the integrity of ecclesial ministry, administration, education, and communication.

In fidelity to the Church's social teaching and in harmony with our diocesan mission, I entrust the faithful implementation of this policy to all clergy, religious, lay employees, volunteers, and all who serve in the name of the Diocese of Biloxi. Those entrusted with leadership, governance, education, pastoral ministry, and administrative responsibility are to ensure that artificial intelligence is used prudently, transparently, and in a manner that reflects the values of truth, justice, and charity.

This policy shall take effect on the first day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty six. I direct that it be duly disseminated and faithfully observed throughout the Diocese of Biloxi.

Given at Biloxi, at the Diocesan Curia, under my sign and seal, and the countersign of my Chancellor, on the 16th day of the month of December, in the year of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, two thousand and twenty five.

+ *Louis Kihneman*

The Most Reverend Louis F. Kihneman, III
Bishop of Biloxi

Deacon Karl Koberger

Deacon Karl Koberger
Chancellor

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE POLICY FOR THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BILOXI

Preamble

Whereas, at this stage in human history, technology is developing rapidly, including the use of what is described as Artificial Intelligence ("AI").

Whereas, AI has been defined by Executive Order 13960, which references Section 238(g) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019, which definition includes, *inter alia*:

-Any artificial system that performs tasks under varying and unpredictable circumstances without significant human oversight, or that can learn from experience and improve performance when exposed to data sets.

-An artificial system developed in computer software, physical hardware, or other context that solves tasks requiring human-like perception, cognition, planning, learning, communication, or physical action.

-An artificial system designed to think or act like a human, including cognitive architectures and neural networks.

-A set of techniques, including machine learning that is designed to approximate a cognitive task.

-An artificial system designed to act rationally, including an intelligent software agent or embodied robot that achieves goals using perception, planning, reasoning, learning, communicating, decision-making, and acting.[1]

Generative AI has been defined as a type of artificial intelligence that can learn from and mimic large amounts of data to create content such as text, images, music, videos, code, and more, based on inputs or prompts.[2]

Whereas, the use of AI is becoming more commonplace and pervasive in modern American society, including in the context of information gathering, work, recreation, and education, but may also present challenges and risks related to misuse or unauthorized use.

Whereas, the following AI Policy is to be promulgated for the glory of God, for the mission of evangelization, for the formation of Intentional Disciples, for the protection and support of the teaching, pastoral efforts, and work of the Diocese, and for the well-being and assistance of the Diocesan employees, staff, schools, teachers, students, and administrators.

Whereas, this Policy is to be construed in conjunction with the Diocesan Policy for the Protection of Minors and youth protection, as well as other preexisting policies and protocols.

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[1] https://www.nasa.gov/what-is-artificial-intelligence/ (last visited October 15, 2025 at 11:40 a.m. CST).
[2] https://www.huit.harvard.edu/ai (last visited October 15, 2025 at 2:01 p.m. CST).

Whereas, this Policy is to be interpreted and promulgated in conjunction with and under the direction and Authority of the teachings of Roman Catholic Church, including the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Canon Law, and as may be directed by the Apostolic Administrator, the Bishop of Biloxi, in addition to the Bishop of Rome, and the Apostolic Authority thereby conveyed.

Whereas, the Diocese reserves all rights under the First Amendment, the Church Autonomy Doctrine, and the Constitutions of the State of Mississippi and the United States of America.

Therefore, the Diocese sets forth the following directives, policies and guidelines, to-wit:

Directives

1.   Expressly Authorized Use. AI may only be utilized upon express authorization from a diocesan/school employee's supervisor and only in the form and manner prescribed by diocesan policy. AI may, in certain limited circumstances, be utilized in an authorized manner as a research tool, but not a replacement for human discretion and intellect. AI may not be used in a manner which involves an unauthorized use of intellectual property contrary to law. AI programs may not be furnished, provided, input, given access to, or otherwise given or "fed" confidential, private, or other sensitive information, attorney-client communications, priest-penitent communications, private donor information, medical information, financial information, bank account information, information regarding students or minors, pictures of students or minors, home addresses, or personal identifiers. AI may not be used in any manner which violates federal, state and/or local laws. AI may not be used in any manner which violates Catholic teaching or in any manner which generates materials, information, data, images or pictures which are immoral, violent, heretical, obscene, involving acts of moral turpitude, or otherwise in violation of the teachings and precepts of the Roman Catholic Church.

When using AI tools, it is important to be aware that the user data supplied might be utilized for training AI models or other purposes. Consequently, there is no guarantee that the information a user provides will remain confidential. Users should exercise caution and avoid sharing any sensitive or confidential information when using these tools. AI Generated content can be inaccurate, misleading, or entirely fabricated (sometimes called "hallucinations") or may contain copyrighted material. Data or purported information received therefrom must be carefully reviewed and verified.

2.   Intellectual Property Protection and Risk Avoidance/Mitigation. With the increasing availability and awareness of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, it is necessary to establish clear guidelines to ensure responsible use. Users must account for and follow applicable policy and laws in view of intellectual property ("IP") protection, IP infringement, data privacy and security risks, personal data privacy and security risks, and data accuracy risks. AI-generated content generally lacks copyright protection, which may cause exposure to potential IP dilution or loss.

Users should take necessary precautions to avoid these and other risks:

a. Intellectual Property Infringement Risk: AI outputs might infringe upon existing copyrights or intellectual property rights, creating legal liabilities.
b. Data Privacy and Security Risk: Information submitted into AI prompts may no longer remain confidential.
c. Personal Data Privacy and Security Risk: Personal or private information of individuals could be exposed.
d. Data Accuracy Risk: Generative AI may provide incorrect, misleading, or fabricated information due to technological limitations.

3.   Permitted Uses. Subject to the foregoing, the use of generative AI is permitted in limited circumstances to enhance efficiency in proofreading, summarization, and conducting preliminary research. Employees may use AI tools strictly for these supportive purposes, provided they diligently review and verify all AI-generated content.

Generally Permitted Uses (subject to the provisions herein):
a. Proofreading existing documents which are not trademarked, subject to copyright, private, privileged, or confidential for grammar, punctuation, and clarity using software integrated into a Diocese or Diocesan school/parish-supplied word processor.
b. Summarizing lengthy documents or public meeting transcripts which are not trademarked, subject to copyright, private, privileged, or confidential, using AI tools.
c. Summarizing recordings of public discourse which are not trademarked, subject to copyright, private, privileged, or confidential, using AI tools.
d. Conducting preliminary research of matters which are not trademarked, subject to copyright, private, privileged, or confidential to streamline information gathering and analysis.
e. Conducting calculations and data analysis and assisting with summarizing or displaying data which is not trademarked, subject to copyright, private, privileged, or confidential.
f. AI may be used for authorized preliminary academic research and other licit educational purposes aligned with instructional goals and Catholic Moral Principles.
g. Teachers may use appropriate AI tools to prepare instruction and streamline planning.

When submitted in an authorized setting, the user must properly disclose how AI was utilized to the recipient, including relevant information such as the type of AI program and specifically what AI assistance was provided.

4.   Prohibited Uses. The following are illustrative examples of prohibited uses, which include, but are not limited to[3] the following:

Prohibited Uses:
a. Summarizing video or telephonic meetings with the use of recording technology, unless properly authorized and in accordance with the directives herein.
b. Providing or approving access to Generative AI assistants to email, calendars, or other Diocesan systems.
c. Providing confidential or purely internal information to Generative AI.

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[3] This is not an exhaustive list of prohibited uses but is merely illustrative in nature.

d. Providing personal identifying information or client information to Generative AI.
e. Submission of AI-generated text, images, videos, or other creative materials as stand-alone or final work products when the submission was directed to be produced without use of AI.
f. Creation or editing of images, videos, audio, or other creative materials via generative AI without explicit prior approval and authorization.
g. Substantive drafting of written materials (email, memoranda, letters, *etc.*)—that is, using AI to generate the first draft of text.
h. Employees may not use "DeepSeek" for any work purpose.
i. Diocesan and/or Diocesan school and/or Parish email addresses, credentials, or phone numbers must not be used to create accounts with generative AI platforms, such as ChatGPT, without explicit authorization.
j. Providing or approving access to Generative AI assistants to email, calendars, or other systems owned and operated by the Parish or School.
k. Submission of AI-generated text, images, videos, or other creative materials as stand-alone or final work products, without clearly disclosing that the products were generated by AI.
l. Creation or editing of images, videos, audio, or other creative materials via generative AI without clearly disclosing that they were generated by AI.
m. See also, Directive #1.

5. <u>Human Oversight Required</u>. All AI-generated outputs must be thoroughly reviewed and validated by human oversight to ensure accuracy, propriety, and compliance with copyright laws and other laws and applicable policies and regulations.

6. <u>Confidential Information Safeguarding</u>. Employee use of AI must comply with applicable laws and policies on confidential information. Confidential information includes, but is not necessarily limited to: personnel information, financial information, private correspondence, draft or preparatory documents, and the minutes of private meetings. Data classified as legally privileged, confidential, or private must not be submitted into AI tools. Employees must maintain vigilance to avoid potential copyright or trademark infringement. All staff must protect sensitive, confidential, and Personally Identifiable Information ("PII") when using AI tools. PII includes any information that can identify an individual, such as full names, addresses, social security numbers, or any confidential personal data.

7. <u>Disciplinary Actions for Violations by Employees</u>. Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, which may include termination, suspension with or without pay, and other possible disciplinary action. All employees of the Diocese of Biloxi are at-will employees who may be terminated at any time.

8. <u>Academic Honesty and Other Prohibited Uses by Students and Administrators</u>. Students may not use AI at any time at school unless expressly authorized and directly supervised.

The following rules also apply to Schools:

a. Diocesan and school policies related to academic honesty and plagiarism must be followed. AI may not be utilized by any student in such a manner as would violate existing policies in this regard. Using AI to complete assignments, assessments, or projects without permission or proper citation constitutes cheating. Students must follow teacher guidelines. Additionally, using AI during tests, quizzes, or assessments, unless explicitly allowed, constitutes cheating.

b. AI also may not be used by teachers/administrators to attempt to determine if an academic work or paper was improperly AI generated.

c. AI programs may not be used for harassment, bullying, cyber-bullying, deception, or any behavior prohibited by the School Handbook and other applicable diocesan policies. AI may not be used in conjunction with social media, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, or any other similar programs at any time by any student on school property or using school computers or school property. AI may not be used to generate content that goes against Catholic values and/or Catholic teaching. AI tools may not be used by students to message or impersonate others online.

d. Use of AI "chatbots" is expressly prohibited.

e. Use of AI to generate or which includes the utilization of any illicit or inappropriate images, data, materials or pictures is expressly prohibited, in addition to any other inappropriate uses, including nudity, pornography, profanity, sacrilege, heresy, or acts of moral turpitude.

f. If there is ever a situation where confidential student or staff information might be accessed or shared inappropriately, the Principal should immediately be notified. The Principal will then inform the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.

g. Every Catholic school is encouraged to post this AI Policy on its website and provide clear access to it for families and staff.

h. Violations of this Policy must be reported to the appropriate Diocesan/School/Staff Supervisor immediately.

i. Any unauthorized use or exposure to any information from AI generated content or searches related to acts of violence or self-harm, or any other content which in any way endangers the safety and well-being of the school, students, administrators, faculty and/or staff are expressly prohibited and must be reported immediately. Appropriate law enforcement authorities must be contacted immediately. The Principal and Superintendent must be immediately notified and take appropriate action in such instance. Any use of AI which in any way endangers Diocesan, parish, and/or school employees, staff, administrators, or students is expressly prohibited and the Diocese, parish and schools reserve the right to enforce this Policy and other existing Policy and protocols for the safety and best interests of these individuals at the discretion of the Superintendent and the Bishop of Biloxi.

9. <u>Disciplinary Actions for Violations by Students</u>. Misuse or unauthorized use of AI by students is very serious and may compromise the safety and/or privacy of students. Violations of Diocesan and/or school AI policies may result in appropriate disciplinary actions to the student, including expulsion, suspension, or other appropriate disciplinary action in the discretion of the Superintendent, Principal and/or otherwise as may be provided by Diocesan and/or school policy. Violations may also result in a failing grade or academic probation. Academic and/or school

related questions related to AI should be directed to the Office of the Superintendent, Mrs. Jennifer Broadus.

10.   <u>Questions of Catholic Moral Teaching and/or Dogma</u>. AI and "Google" search engines should not be used to provide exhaustive and/or full and final answers to questions related to Catholic Moral Teaching, Dogma, and/or the precepts and teachings of the Catholic Church. Consult with the appropriate Pastor and/or qualified religious educator for direction. Information provided by AI generated answers, including "Google" search answers must be properly verified by approved by or derived from legitimate Catholic sources before use such as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Sacred Scripture, and/or the writings of the Saints.

11.   <u>Assent By Enrollment</u>. By enrolling their child(ren) in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Biloxi, parents of said students, and the students themselves, assent to the terms herein and otherwise as may be amended from time to time.

12.   <u>Interpretation with other School Policies</u>. In the event this Policy conflicts with a policy of a particular school, this Policy shall control. In the event that there is a question presented as to the manner of interpretation of any provision or clause herein, the Bishop of Biloxi shall have the authority to interpret the same as the final word.

13.   <u>Applicability</u>. The policy applies to all Church staff and volunteers, whether at the Diocese or at Parishes and its related apostolates and ministries, as well as to all Catholic Schools in the Diocese.

Other References:

   Antiqua Et Nova is the title of a doctrinal note published in January 2025 by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education. This document addresses the relationship between artificial intelligence (AI) and human intelligence, exploring the anthropological and ethical challenges posed by AI.