



St. Ignatius Catholic Church

Bi-Monthly English Bulletin

JUNE – JULY 2026

In this edition of the Bulletin, we feature the homily delivered by Auxiliary Bishop Andrea Lembo of the Tokyo Archdiocese during the 10:00 a.m. Mass on May 31. We invited him to share his thoughts with us because, amidst the growing discussions surrounding artificial intelligence (AI), his insights remind us what it means to be truly human. His message is intended for everyone, not just the 109 Confirmands present that day.

“What you receive is the living Spirit of God!”

by Bishop Andrea Lembo, DD
Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Tokyo



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we also celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Dear Confirmands, Congratulations and welcome! Today, the Church invites you into the mystery of God, who is eternal love and communion between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Everything begins from God’s love. In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells us: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”

Human beings are being cherished beyond measure by God. This theme of God’s love and human dignity is something close to us, and it carries special significance in contemporary society - something we should pause and reflect upon. In particular, the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) is prompting us to reconsider what it means to be human.

AI is a technology that learns, analyzes, and shapes society, demonstrating the richness of the intelligence bestowed upon humanity. However, as Pope Leo XIV states in his first encyclical, *MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS*, the deepest crisis of our age is not technological, but existential – a crisis of human existence itself. The danger is not that machines may become human, but that human beings may begin to think of themselves as machines.

AI excels at logical reasoning, but it cannot understand the meaning of suffering, forgiveness, or love. Even if information increases, without wisdom to accompany it, our humanity becomes fragile. That is why the Sacrament of Confirmation you receive today is so important. What you receive is not artificial intelligence, but the living Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit purifies human intelligence and leads us towards the truth.

In the Christian tradition, knowledge and wisdom are not the same. Knowledge shows us what we are capable of doing, while wisdom teaches us what we ought to do. And wisdom leads us to reverence for God. We are created in the image of God, and every person possesses an irreplaceable dignity.



Dear candidates for Confirmation, even in a world captivated by speed, learn to cultivate contemplation; and in a world overflowing with information, seek the truth that never changes. Intelligence guided by the Holy Spirit becomes a path towards service, justice, beauty, and peace.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten and strengthen you, and may he guide you so that the future may remain truly human.

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Address: 6-5-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 102-0083
Tel. No. 03-3263-4584 / 03-3263-4576
Fax No. 03-3263-4585

St. Ignatius Catholic Church
www.stignatius.jp/en/

DID YOU KNOW?

Soon, summer break will begin, and everyone will start to daydream about where to go, what to do, with whom, and how much they will need to spend. The Teens Group of the English Sunday School is already ahead in their planning. They will be visiting Shinjuku Garden to enjoy this beautiful patch of nature amid the bustling metropolis. They have even chosen a topic for conversation: how to spend vacation time as Christians. How about you?

Here are some interesting suggestions:

CATHOLIC DAILIES **CATHOLIC** SUMMER LIVING

ONLINE BE PRAYERFUL BE INSPIRED


8 FAITH-BASED WAYS TO GROW SPIRITUALLY THIS SEASON

Use this season to grow closer to God through simple, intentional choices every day.

1 **READ GOD'S WORD DAILY**
Spend time with Scripture each day. Let the Gospels guide your heart and strengthen your faith.
✝ God's Word brings light to every day.



2 **PRAY THE ROSARY ON THE GO**
Take a walk and pray the Rosary. It calms your mind and draws you closer to Mary.
✝ Walking with Mary leads to Jesus.




3 **VISIT A SHRINE OR PILGRIMAGE SITE**
Visit a holy place. Let pilgrimage renew your faith and bring you closer to God.
✝ Life is a journey toward heaven.




4 **LEARN FROM THE SAINTS**
Discover a saint's life each week. Be inspired by their faith and courage.
✝ Holiness is possible for everyone.



5 **DEEPLY PARTICIPATE IN SUNDAY MASS**
Prepare before Mass, listen with your heart, and give thanks after Communion.
✝ The Eucharist is the heart of our faith.



6 **ENJOY GOD'S CREATION**
Spend time in nature. Reflect on God's goodness, beauty, and wonderful works.
✝ Creation reflects the Creator's glory.



7 **SET ASIDE SILENT PRAYER TIME**
Be still and listen. Even a few quiet minutes can bring peace and clarity.
✝ God speaks in the silence.



8 **SHARE LOVE THROUGH SERVICE**
Use your time to help others. Small acts of love make a big difference.
✝ Faith grows when we give with love.



Let this summer be more than just a break—let it be a season of spiritual growth, deeper love for God, and a life of purpose.



HOW ARE YOU USING YOUR SUMMER—FOR DISTRACTION OR FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH?



Share your thoughts in the comments!



What Is Magnifica Humanitas and Why Should You Care?

Nigerian Catholic priest Fr. Oliver Ikenna Nwagbara, a member of the Congregation of Christ the Emmanuel (CCE) and Assistant Pastor at Good Shepherd Parish in the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, Canada, is often called the "Digital Pastor." He shares his insights on Pope Leo XIV's encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*.

Some documents arrive quietly. And then some documents land like a stone in still water, sending ripples across the entire Church and beyond. *Magnifica Humanitas*, Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical signed on 15 May 2026, is the second kind of document.

What Is an Encyclical?

An encyclical is one of the highest forms of papal teaching. It is a letter from the Pope addressed to the entire Church and, in this case, to "all men and women of good will" on a matter of serious urgency. When a pope writes an encyclical, he is not offering a casual opinion. He is speaking as the universal shepherd, drawing on centuries of Scripture, Tradition, and the lived experience of the Church.

Magnifica Humanitas, which translates to "Magnificent Humanity," is Pope Leo XIV's opening statement to the world. And he chose to make it about artificial intelligence (AI). Why AI? Why now? Some might ask: why is the Pope writing about technology? Should not the Church focus on prayer, sacraments, and salvation?

Pope Leo XIV answers this question directly, echoing his predecessor, Leo XIII, who faced the same objection in 1891, when he wrote *Rerum Novarum* on workers' rights and the Industrial Revolution. The proclamation of the Gospel, he insists, cannot overlook the concrete lives of people. And right now, the concrete lives of people are being shaped profoundly and rapidly by artificial intelligence.

AI is not a distant, futuristic concept. It is already deciding who gets a bank loan, who gets called for a job interview, what news you see, what content your children encounter, and increasingly, who lives and who dies on battlefields. These are not technical questions. They are human questions. And human questions are the Church's business. Pope Leo XIV wrote this encyclical because silence would have been a failure of pastoral responsibility.

The 135-Year Connection

One of the most striking aspects of *Magnifica Humanitas* is that it was signed on 15 May 2026, exactly 135 years after Leo XIII published *Rerum Novarum* on 15 May 1891. That was not a coincidence.

Rerum Novarum was the Church's response to the Industrial Revolution, a world being transformed by machines, factories, and capitalism, where workers were being exploited and their dignity trampled. It became the foundation of modern Catholic social teaching. It changed how the Church engaged with society forever.

Pope Leo XIV wrote this encyclical because silence would have been a failure of pastoral responsibility. He is making a deliberate statement: what the Industrial Revolution was to Leo XIII, artificial intelligence is to us. The scale of disruption is comparable. The stakes for human dignity are just as high. And the Church cannot afford to be silent.

Two Cities, One Choice

At the heart of *Magnifica Humanitas* are two images drawn from Scripture that frame the document.

The first is the Tower of Babel, humanity using its collective power and technology to build something grand, but without God, without care for the vulnerable, and ultimately without wisdom. The result is not unity but fragmentation, not progress but confusion.

The second is Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, a different kind of building project. Not driven by pride or profit, but by prayer, shared responsibility, listening, and a genuine concern for every member of the community. Brick by brick. Together.

Pope Leo XIV says the same choice faces us today. We can use AI to build Babel, a world of algorithmic control, digital exploitation, growing inequality, and the slow erosion of what makes us human. Or we can use it to rebuild Jerusalem, putting technology at the service of human dignity, the common good, and genuine solidarity.

The encyclical is not anti-technology. It never says AI is evil. What it says is that technology is never neutral. It takes on the character of the people who build it, fund it, and use it. And so the question is not whether we will use AI; we already are. The question is what kind of people we will be while using it.

What the Encyclical Actually Covers

Magnifica Humanitas is 48 pages and 5 chapters long. But here is a brief map of the territory:

Chapter One traces the history of Catholic social teaching from Leo XIII to Pope Francis, showing how the Church has always engaged with the "new things" of each era.

Chapter Two lays out the core principles that must guide our response to AI, including human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity, solidarity, and social justice.

Chapter Three tackles AI directly: what it is, what it isn't, and why transhumanism is a dangerous dead end.

Chapter Four addresses four urgent areas: truth and democracy, education, the dignity of work, and human freedom in the age of digital addiction and surveillance.

Chapter Five turns to war, the use of AI in weapons systems, the culture of power, and the path toward what Pope Saint Paul VI called "the civilization of love."

Why This Matters to You

You might not be a theologian. You might not read Vatican documents. But if you own a smartphone, use social media, worry about your future, care about justice, or are simply trying to live your faith in a world that feels increasingly confusing and inhuman, this encyclical was written for you.

Pope Leo XIV is not asking Catholics to become Luddites or to fear technology. He is asking us to remain profoundly human. To ask hard questions. To resist the slow drift toward a world where efficiency replaces compassion, where data replaces dignity, and where the logic of profit replaces the logic of love.

Saint Carlo Acutis understood this before most people were even asking the question. He saw the internet not as a threat to faith but as a frontier for it.

Source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/africa/news/2026-05/what-is-magnifica-humanitas-and-why-should-you-care>

ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

Annual Parish Meeting - June 14, 2026 at St. Joseph Hall

Excerpts from the Annual Parish Meeting

Fr. Toshiaki Koso, SJ (Pastor)

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued commitment to our parish, for journeying together as a faith community, and for supporting our community, both spiritually and materially throughout the year.

As we look ahead to the next ten years (towards the 100th anniversary of the church), let us work together to develop a pastoral plan in which the Holy Spirit is the protagonist."

Fr. Saturnino Ochoa, SJ

"It is unlikely that the number of priests and religious will increase significantly over the next twelve years. Precisely for this reason, it is essential that lay people be formed and empowered to take leadership roles. The important challenge is to foster a culture of collaboration among clergy, religious, and lay faithful. Through this, the Church will be better equipped to meet the needs of the future."

Fr. Kiyoshi Shibata, SJ

"Balancing responsibilities for the liturgy, the parish school, and unforeseen situations has become increasingly challenging, and I believe that additional support and shared responsibility are needed."

Fr. Bony James, SJ

"While "worshiping together" may sound like a wonderful idea, in reality it also takes a lot of effort to function as one international community. Having gathered together from different cultures and characters, walking together as one community is not easy, and it needs a lot of patience, beneficence, and trust in each other."

Chair of the Parish Council

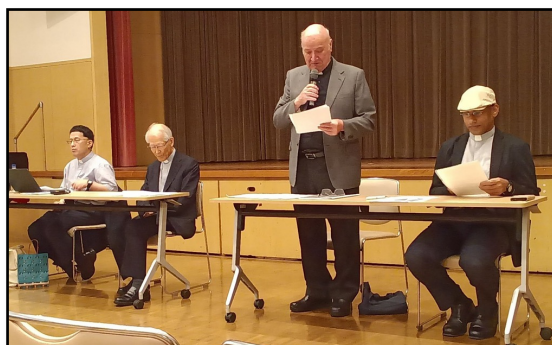
"This year we will move forward under the theme, "Journeying Together as One Community to Jesus". Our community is blessed with different nationalities, languages and backgrounds. This diversity is a rich gift from God. By respecting and appreciating our differences, we seek together to be united as one community with Christ as our head. As we pray together, support one another, and grow in fellowship, we hope to continue walking together as a church that bears witness to the Gospel."

From the Finance Committee

"The activities of the church are supported by the parish maintenance contributions and donations. As you are all aware, prices of goods and services continue to rise and in addition, 26 years have passed, making maintenance necessary in various areas. As always, we kindly ask all parish groups and ministries to make every effort to use resources efficiently in their activities and continue supporting the parish through parish maintenance contributions."



Attendees listening to Reports during the St. Ignatius Church Annual Parish Meeting



Priests serving at St. Ignatius Church speaking during the Annual Parish Meeting



June 7 - First Communion of twelve (12) Sunday School children (English) which began with a Eucharistic procession, being the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.



May 31- Confirmation during the 10 AM Japanese Mass adults and teens at the Main Chapel officiated by Tokyo Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop Andrea Lembo, DD

ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS



Vietnamese Mass celebrating the month of Mary with children offering flowers.

May 24 - Living Rosary for Peace led by Children, Teens, and Young Couples from the different Language Groups of St. Ignatius Parish



Sunday School Teens Overnight Activity – 24 hours with God



June 13 - Marian Consecration during the Anticipated English Mass (in participation to the Worldwide Marian Procession)



Fundraising Drive for Earthquake Victims in Mindanao, Philippines



SIYM Core Leaders Retreat and Orientation

International Mass sponsored by the Japanese Group which introduced the different images of Mary woven into the story and history of Japan



Our Lady of the Hidden Christians Our Lady of Akita Holy Mary Kannon (Hara Castle)

2026 Annual Church General Cleaning with over 170 Volunteers from the Japanese and International Community



Kitchen



St. Mary's Chapel



Xavier Chapel

SPECIAL FEATURE

A Look Back At Our Two-Year Tenure As Parish Council Members

I was pleasantly surprised when Fr. Bony approached me in early 2024 and asked me to become a Representative of the English community on the Parish Council of St. Ignatius Parish, the first time the English community was officially invited. I did mention to him that I thought I was not qualified, as I do not read, write, or speak Japanese. He assured me that there would be one other person, Maria Koretti Kinuta, and that the two of us would complement each other. So, I said yes.

Fr. Bony only mentioned to me that there was a monthly Parish Council Meeting held on the first Thursday of each month. However, it turned out there were other meetings and responsibilities, such as regular biweekly meetings on Sundays in each month. Council members were also allotted additional tasks in various groups that held regular meetings. I was a member of the MAGIS Committee, the Public Relations (PR) Committee, a Missionary Cooperation Council consisting of members from Kojimachi, Kanda, and Tsukiji Parishes, among others. Alongside Maria Goretti, I also served as a liaison between the Council and the English community.

Throughout my two years of service, I found that my limited Japanese language skills prevented me from actively contributing to many discussions during meetings. However, I participated in nearly all activities and meetings, which allowed me to learn a great deal.

I often wondered how a large parish, with various officially recognized communities such as Japanese, English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Portuguese, managed to operate smoothly. I discovered that the Parish Council and the Church Office support the Pastor in overseeing the parish's operations. Most major events are planned well in advance at the Parish Council level, which then forms sub-committees for occasions like Christmas, Easter, and the Church Festival. Council members are typically assigned specific roles during these major events, including responsibilities such as space allocation and crowd control.

Personally, I fully support the efforts of Fr. Koso and the Parish Council to ensure that all communities of St. Ignatius Church cooperate and work together as one family, as reflected in the church theme of 2026: "Journeying Together as One to Jesus".

Now, Maria Koretti and I handed over the baton to Peter Hudson (India) at the beginning of April, 2026. We wish him well in representing the English community at the August Council. (Raymond Gasu, Ghana)



The Parish Council and members of the Pastoral Group in session

First of all, thank you for your support over the past two years. I am grateful to the priests, sisters, staff, parishioners, and Council members for their assistance, which has allowed me to move forward, albeit with some difficulty.

As a foreigner residing in Japan, the existence of St. Ignatius Church is incredibly meaningful to me. The joy of attending Mass in the same language as I did in my home country is an immeasurable blessing, and I know that many members of the foreign community share this sentiment. Therefore, serving the Lord as a Parish Council member is my way of "giving back."

During my two years here, I have noticed that one of the challenges at St. Ignatius Church is that while there is active engagement among groups that gather by language, interactions that transcend language barriers are still lacking. I believe that "walking together" means fostering deeper connections more than simply exchanging words.

Additionally, carrying or holding something together as we move forward can strengthen our bond. Let's all commit to carrying or holding something together as we continue to grow in the spirit of Synodality. (Maria Koretti Kinuta, Samoa)

JOHN DE BRITTO ENGLISH CENTER GROUPS AND MINISTRIES



We need

Volunteers!

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.” — Mother Teresa of Calcutta

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Composed of multicultural children. Classes are divided into Primary, Intermediate, and Teen levels. Meets 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, from 1:30-2:30 p.m., to learn about the basics of the Catholic faith.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP GROUP

Held every 1st Sunday of the month in Arrupe Hall Rm. 203B, 10:00-11:30 AM. Gathers to praise the Lord through songs, give thanks, and listen attentively to his live-giving Word. Personal intentions are received to be offered up in prayer

INTERNATIONAL GROUP MEETING

Held every 2nd Sunday of the month, Kibe Hall Room 307, 1:45-3:30 PM. Gathers to plan and think of better ways to serve St. Ignatius Church.

FAITH FORMATION GROUP FOR ADULTS

Held 1st Sunday of the month, Kibe Hall Room 310, 2:00-4:00 PM. For adult Catholics who wish to deepen their understanding of the faith through selected videos and on-line talks. Non-Catholics are welcome.

YOUTH MINISTRY

An international group that leads the Youth Mass every 4th Sunday of the month followed by a Youth Catechism at 1:45 PM in Kibe Hall Room 307. Conducts various activities such as the “Hangout” (3rd Sunday), Language Café (4th Sunday). Meet them in Room 103.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC)

Composed of different nationalities, by turns they serve in the 12:00 noon English Mass, assist the celebrant and give Holy Communion to the faithful. Special formation is required for this ministry.

ALTAR SERVERS

Serve before, during, and after the English Mass assisting the priest and the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC). They are boys and girls from ages 10-15 who have already received their First Communion.

ANGELS GROUP

Composed of adults and young people who love children, they serve every 1st Sunday of the month. Just after the Opening Prayer of the Mass, they gather children in Xavier Chapel and provide stories of the Gospel in language understood by them.

CHOIR

Sings at the 12 noon Sunday English Mass. Practices in Room 401 11:00a.m.

SUNDAY READINGS FAITH SHARING

Held every 3rd Sunday of the month, Arrupe Hall Room 404, 2:00-4:00 PM. For those who want to deepen and share the Sunday Readings of that day. Everyone is welcome!

READERS' GROUP

Serve at the 12:00 noon Sunday English Mass. They are those who would like to proclaim the Word of God and serve as lectors guiding the assembly during the liturgical rite. Practice is required.

MEDIA

Prepares the Sunday Mass power point, the bi-monthly English Bulletin, makes special posters, and takes care of the English website and Facebook Page of St. Ignatius Church.

WEEKDAY OFFICE STAFF

They open the English Center on weekdays, from 10:0-3:00 PM to attend to the needs of those who come or call for inquiries.

USHERS

Every Sunday, during the 12nn English Mass, they facilitate an orderly and prayerful atmosphere before, during, and after mass..

**FIND JOY
in SERVICE**

SACRAMENTS: schedule & classes

INFANT/ ADULT BAPTISM:

Schedule: 3rd Sunday of Feb, April, June, September & November

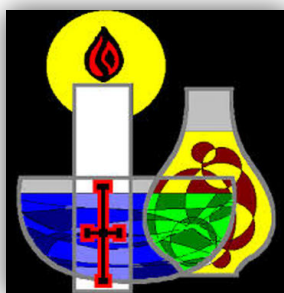
Venue: St Marry's Chapel

Time: 10:00 AM

Classes: to be arranged with the coordinator in-charge

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

Inquire at least 4 months before the wedding day.



John de Brito English Center

Address: 6-5-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 102-0083

Office Hours:

Weekdays: 10:00 - 12:00

13:00 - 15:00

Weekends: 10:00 - 17:00

Telephone: 03 - 3263 - 4576

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Schedule of Masses & Confessions

WEEKDAYS: All in Japanese, Main Church

7:00 AM	Weekday Masses
12:00 NN / 6:00 PM	Weekday Masses
12:00 NN	Saturday Mass
6:00 PM	Anticipated Sunday Mass

SUNDAYS:

Main Church

7:00 AM / 8:30 AM / 10:00 AM / 6:00 PM	Japanese Mass
12:00 NN English Mass	1:30 PM Spanish Mass
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass	

Masses at Our Lady's Chapel

1 st Sunday: 1:30 PM (Portuguese)	4:00 PM (Polish)
2 nd and 4 th Sunday: 4:30 PM (Indonesian)	

ANTICIPATED SUNDAY MASSES (SATURDAYS)

5:30 PM – English (St. Mary's Chapel)
6:00 PM – Japanese (Main Church)

CONFESSION

Weekday/Saturday	17:30 – 18:30
Sunday: Japanese	9:30 – 10:30 and 17:30 – 18:30
English	11:30 – 12:30
Spanish	13:00 – 14:00

Staff of St. Ignatius Church

Pastor: Fr. Toshiaki Koso S.J.

Associate and Support Priest:

Fr. Saturnino Ochoa S.J.
Fr. Bony James S.J.
Fr. Nguyễn Van The S.J.

Fr. Kiyoshi Shibata S.J.
Fr. Javier Garralda S.J.
Fr. Etsuo Sekine S.J.
Fr. Sozo Tsukurimichi S.J.
Sch. Antonio Soares S.J.

Centro Loyola:

Sr. Catalina Padilla Bautista, M.C.

Vietnamese Center:

Sr. Rosanna Ngoc Tuyen D.H.M

John de Britto English Center:

Fr. Bony James S.J.
Sr. Flor Florece F.I.
Jessie Buendia NdV

Director
Coordinator
Coordinator

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

JULY: For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

August: For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE



You are invited!

Organ Meditation Let's Sing English Hymns!

- All Are Welcome -

July 3, Friday 2026
19:00 pm
Main Church



Mr Shuichi Shimosaka, organist at St Patrick Church and a longtime organist at St Ignatius Church, will be returning to Tokyo for a special performance. Drawing from his ministry in the American church, he will perform and lead us in hymns that are regularly sung in congregations across the United States. As fellow believers gathered in the name of Jesus Christ, let us sing together, pray together, and lift our hearts in praise to God.



Organ Shuichi Shimosaka
Organist, St Ignatius Church /
Associate Organist, St Patrick Church, New Jersey, USA

with the St Ignatius Church
English Choir

Reflection Fr Bony James SJ

All are welcome! First-time visitors
and non-parishioners are warmly
invited to join us.

St Ignatius Catholic Church

There is no admission fee. A freewill offering to help support the maintenance of the organ would be gratefully received.

Email : organ.to.inori@gmail.com

Thank you!

To all those who
made this bi-monthly
Bulletin possible, our
deepest gratitude
and appreciation.
God bless!!!