# Pope Francis Warns G7 Leaders About AI Dangers in Historic Speech



On June 14, 2024, Pope Francis delivered a historic speech at the Group of Seven (G7) summit in Borgo Egnazia, Italy, warning world leaders about the potential dangers of artificial intelligence (AI). This marked the first time a pontiff addressed the annual G7 summit. The G7 leaders, including representatives from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, gathered from June 13-15 to discuss global economic governance, international security, and energy policy.

Pope Francis characterized AI as a "cognitive-industrial revolution" and emphasized that it could undermine human dignity if not properly controlled. He stressed the need for human oversight over AI programs to prevent potential harm and preserve human dignity. Francis also advocated for ethical principles in AI development, reflecting the Vatican's ongoing commitment since the "Rome Call for AI Ethics" in 2020. He urged for an international treaty to regulate AI, cautioning against the rise of a technological dictatorship.

During his speech, Pope Francis highlighted examples where AI showed limitations, such as in judicial sentencing, chatbot interactions, and student assignments, underscoring that while AI can offer utility, it often results in diminished or flawed outcomes.

The pope was invited by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who guided him during his visit to the summit. Throughout the G7 event, Meloni played a significant role in managing interactions and ensuring photo opportunities with world leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden and others. The summit's official activities included discussions and meetings, along with organized photo sessions and public appearances reflecting the unity and cooperation among the participating nations.