

SECOND ANNUAL SEMINAR

Ethics and Values in the Era of AI

Magnifica Humanitas
and Our Shared Future

Perspectives from Education,
Finance and Healthcare

Saturday, October 24, 2026

8:30 AM–4 PM

Chancellor's Suite
Bishop Dougherty University Center
Seton Hall University · South Orange, New Jersey

Presented by



CENTER FOR
CATHOLIC STUDIES

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY



International
Academy
of Catholic
Leaders

Welcome

Welcome to a day of reflection on artificial intelligence and our shared future. At the center of today's conversation is Pope Leo XIV's new encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, a papal teaching letter on safeguarding the human person in the age of AI. Drawing on its guidance, we will consider human dignity and responsible judgment in education, finance and healthcare.

The Center for Catholic Studies at Seton Hall University brings the Catholic Intellectual Tradition into dialogue with contemporary life. The International Academy of Catholic Leaders forms leaders through the Church's Social Doctrine. Together, we invite you to listen across fields and consider how technology can serve people and communities.

The day at a glance

8:30–9 AM	Registration, coffee and continental breakfast
9–9:20 AM	Welcome and opening
9:20–10:40 AM	Education Panel, table discussions and Q&A
10:40–11 AM	Morning break
11 AM–12:20 PM	Finance, table discussions and Q&A
12:20–1:20 PM	Lunch and networking
1:20–2:40 PM	Healthcare presentation, table discussion and Q&A
2:40–2:55 PM	Afternoon break
2:55–3:40 PM	Whole-group synthesis and next steps
3:40–4 PM	Closing remarks
4:30 PM	Optional Mass · Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

Seminar leadership

Seton Hall University



Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Catholic Studies
Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology
Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology
Morning Master of Ceremonies
Education Panel Moderator



Gloria Garafulich-Grabois, DHS

Director, G.K. Chesterton Institute
for Faith & Culture
Afternoon Master of Ceremonies



Lori Tarke, D.H.Sc.

Executive Director, Joseph A. Unanue
Latino Institute



Samuel McDonald

Program Manager, Center for Catholic Studies

‘We look forward to gathering members of the university and the wider community on October 24 and unpacking [*Magnifica Humanitas*] in a spirit of hope and dialogue.’

— Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.

Seminar leadership

International Academy of Catholic Leaders



Sir Mario J. Paredes

President
International Academy of Catholic Leaders



Lara Bersano

Executive Director
International Academy of Catholic Leaders



Elena Herrero

Executive Manager to the CEO
SOMOS Community Care

‘Guided by Catholic Social Doctrine and the vision of *Magnifica Humanitas*, we have a responsibility to ensure that AI serves humanity—protecting human dignity, advancing the common good, and helping build a more just and humane future for all.’

— Lara Bersano

Education Panel

Moderated by Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.



Chris Tyrrell

Risk Management Executive
Founder, Classical Intelligence

Chris Tyrrell leads digital asset risk and controls as a Managing Director in Citi Services. He founded Classical Intelligence, supporting AI use in classical education. He holds a J.D. from the University of Virginia and an M.St. in Practical Ethics from Oxford, where he researched AI ethics and moral decision-making.



Sebastian Budinich

Doctoral Candidate in Theological
and Social Ethics
Fordham University

Sebastian Budinich teaches at Fordham and Manhattan universities. His research examines family, kinship and care in Latin America through Catholic theological ethics. He explores what AI reveals about the human person and how students use these tools in the classroom.



Douglas C. Minson, M.A.

Chief Academic Officer
Classical Intelligence

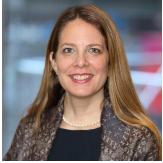
Douglas C. Minson has led Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Boonton and served Catholic school communities. He holds an M.A. in Philosophy from The Catholic University of America. His work connects classical education, human dignity and AI.

Education: Notes



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal blue lines.

Finance



Danielle Papandrea

Managing Director
Merrill Wealth Management

Danielle Papandrea is Managing Director at Merrill Wealth Management and leads its Practice Management Group, overseeing more than 20 coaches and specialists who help financial advisors strengthen their teams and serve clients. She brings more than 25 years of financial services experience, including leadership in learning and professional development at Merrill and BlackRock. She holds CFP® and CIMA® credentials and is an ICF-certified leadership coach trained through Georgetown University. A St. John's University finance graduate, she also holds a master's degree in Organizational Development and Leadership. In 2026, Futures in Education honored Danielle and her husband for their support of Catholic education.

Finance: Notes

Healthcare Presentation



Elena Herrero

Executive Manager to the CEO
SOMOS Community Care

Elena Herrero is Executive Manager to the CEO at SOMOS Community Care and Executive Secretary of the International Academy of Catholic Leaders. She brings more than 25 years of experience in healthcare administration, publishing, communications and philanthropy, including executive operations, fundraising and international partnerships. Since 2024, she has coordinated the “¡Thank you, Doctor!” campaign, recognizing healthcare professionals and promoting community well-being. An Emmy Award-winning associate producer, she supports culturally competent care and initiatives serving underserved communities. She holds a master’s degree in Journalism from Universidad San Pablo-CEU.



Diego Ponienman, M.D., M.P.H.

Primary Care Physician
James J. Peters VA Medical Center

Diego Ponienman is a board-certified internist with more than 30 years of experience. He earned his medical degree at the University of Buenos Aires, completed internship and residency training at Albert Einstein/Montefiore Medical Center and pursued an academic fellowship in general internal medicine at Mount Sinai. His clinical work in the Bronx and Harlem focuses on chronic disease management, health disparities and improving minority communities’ access to care.

Healthcare: Notes

Catholic Intellectual Tradition and continued connection

Seton Hall's commitment to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition brings faith and reason into a shared search for truth. It calls the University to educate the whole person, uphold human dignity and serve the common good. Through scholarship and dialogue, the Center deepens this commitment across disciplines. Today's seminar brings this tradition into conversation with *Magnifica Humanitas* and the responsible use of AI in education, finance and healthcare.



Magnifica Humanitas

Encyclical and official resources
[humandevelopment.va/en/
magnifica-humanitas.html](https://humandevelopment.va/en/magnifica-humanitas.html)

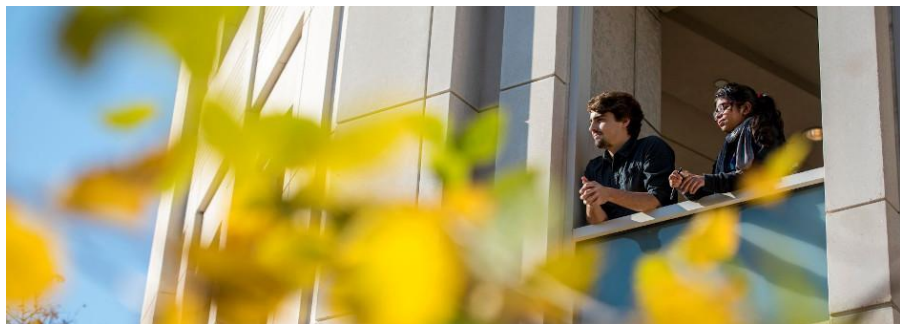
Explore the seminar online

setonhall.edu/AIEthicsandValues

Questions or continued connection

Center for Catholic Studies
Walsh Library, 4th floor
catholicstudies@shu.edu

Support and stay connected



Walsh Library Portico

‘... forming an intellectual community at Seton Hall grounded in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition where everyone can learn, grow, and flourish.’

— Patrick R. Manning, Ph.D.



Center for Catholic Studies

Support faculty development, student and community outreach, and public programs.

[advancement.shu.edu/support/
center-for-catholic-studies.html](https://advancement.shu.edu/support/center-for-catholic-studies.html)



International Academy of Catholic Leaders

Explore Catholic leadership formation.

liderescatolicos.net/en/who-we-are/

Support our partners



G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture

*Imagining a world with leaders
rooted in Chestertonian ideals*

For 52 years, the Institute has worked to promote the thought of G.K. Chesterton and his circle, and its application in today’s world. Through its continued work, the Institute and *The Chesterton Review* have had a key role in the Chesterton revival worldwide.

advancement.shu.edu/support/chesterton-fund.html



Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute

Guided by Catholic faith, the Institute advances scholarship and service. Your gift supports undergraduate and graduate scholarships, Latino cultural enrichment, professional development and community outreach.

advancement.shu.edu/support/unanue-latino-institute.html

Campus Ministry

shu.edu/campus-ministry/

Explore worship, discipleship, community and service at Seton Hall’s university parish, where all are welcome.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the organizations and teams whose collaboration makes this seminar possible.

Presented by

Center for Catholic Studies, Seton Hall University
International Academy of Catholic Leaders

In partnership with

G.K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture
Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute
Campus Ministry

In collaboration with

Basilica Medical Management
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Special thanks

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Video production: Miriam Coletta and Renzo Devia
Photography: Milan Stanic
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