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Artificial Intelligence and the Quest for Meaning

Melbourne, [13/11/2024] Melbourne, [13/11/2024] — Dr. Ziggy Zdziarski, an Australian AI researcher and lecturer known for his unique interdisciplinary approach combining computer science, philosophy, and theology, is sparking vital conversations about the ethical dimensions of artificial intelligence (AI). As Head of Research and Development at the Australian Institute of Advanced Technologies, Dr. Zdziarski recently represented Australia as the sole delegate at the Vatican’s Builder’s AI Forum—a renowned global gathering of thought leaders exploring human-centered values in technology.

Dr. Zdziarski’s insights, now available on Common Home

- [Watch the full interview on Common Home TV](#)
- [Listen to the podcast](#)
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During the Vatican summit, Dr. Zdziarski highlighted the critical need to align AI advancements with the core principle of human dignity, a priority as AI increasingly permeates daily life. Addressing an audience of global academics and practitioners, he emphasised the philosophical and ethical responsibilities that must guide AI’s future. “This is a profound opportunity for ministering,” Dr. Zdziarski stated. “As technology advances, there’s an urgent human hunger for authentic connection and understanding.”

Dr. Zdziarski’s reflections resonate with recent insights from Pope Francis, who, in his encyclical *Dilexit nos* (“He Loved Us”), emphasized the centrality of the “human heart” to personhood—something beyond the reach of AI. Dr. Zdziarski concurs: “When Pope Francis says AI lacks a heart, he’s underscoring a profound limitation. The Church reminds us of our dignity and uniqueness, cautioning against relying on machines as substitutes for genuine human interaction.”



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