

Discussion: **Family and the digital cultural revolution**

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In today's world of conflict and technological disruption, we must ask how to move forward to create meaningful lives for our families and communities in a sustainable world. How can we teach Christian values along with the knowledge and skills everyone needs to earn a decent living and to contribute to the community?

We must begin by confronting our two main economic challenges—inequality and climate change, in a world now threatened by the possibility of nuclear war. When we look at the digital cultural revolution within this larger context, then we know the response incorporates how we live our daily lives, how we create supportive communities, and how our national government sets the stage. At home and in schools, parents and teachers need to be good role models by living the way we want our children to live: with compassion and respect for others, with deep relationships encompassing family and friends, and with education that allows continual learning and exploring new skills. Then we teach them to use the internet in a way that expands their knowledge and explore the world as well as stay in touch with those we love who are not close by. We teach them how to evaluate the quality of the information online. We teach them not to check devices with having conversations or meals with friends and family.

From an early age, parents teach children learn how to create friendship and how to help others. With personal relationships supported by daily or weekly activities, our children know that idle gossip online is not authentic relating.

With an education that supports continual learning at both the vocational training and university level, students want to keep learning and improving their skills and knowledge to support their careers and their understanding and place in the world.

With the support of community members, local governments must demand national policies that provide adequate social safety nets when sickness or a bad economy threaten the families' ability to care for themselves. With the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation, workers can come together at the workplace to devise plans for sharing work and reducing work hours, which are reinforced by local and national regulations that provide incentives for companies to share their revenues fairly with workers.

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis argues that all generations are interconnected with one another and with the earth, and that this fact is the basis for mandating that we care for others and for our common home. He observes that Earth's natural capital puts a limit on growth and that a meaningful life encompasses much more than material well-being. This is the approach taken in Buddhist Economics.

As parents, teachers and spiritual leaders, our mandate is to teach young people how they are interconnected, and why caring for each other and the planet increases their own and society's well-being. Digital technology can be part of our lives if we use it in a meaningful way to create the compassionate, sustainable economy and society we all desire.