Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity: A Moral and Theological Reflection

Report on the 36th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Association of Moral Theologians of India (AMTI)

The Association of Moral Theologians of India (AMTI) held its 36th Annual Meeting and Conference from 16 to 18 October 2026 at Nava Spoorthy Kendra, Bengaluru. The theme, *"Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity: Challenges and Moral Response,"* brought together moral theologians teaching in seminaries and theological institutions across India to reflect on one of the most pressing questions of our time: how can we make technological progress serve humanity without losing sight of what makes us human?

The conference began with a reminder that AI is not simply a matter of technological advancement. It raises fundamental questions about human dignity, conscience, responsibility and our relationships with one another. In his inaugural address, Rev. Fr. Edward Joseph, CSsR, The Provincial of Redemptorist Congregation, Bangalore Province, stressed that AI should enhance human capabilities, strengthen rather than weaken the human conscience, and remain at the service of human dignity and the love of God.

An equally important concern was the distribution of the benefits of AI. In his presidential address, Fr. Dr. Josin George Kaithakulam, CMI, drew attention to the possibility that the wealth generated by AI might benefit only a small section of society. This raises a question that moral theologians cannot afford to ignore: who benefits from technological progress, and who risks being left behind? The discussion brought the principles of solidarity, distributive justice and the common good into the debate on AI.

The academic programme included a keynote address by Dr Harold D'Costa, a specialist in cyber law and security, who examined issues related to privacy, legal responsibility and the governance of emerging technologies. Sixteen research papers were presented by moral theologians teaching in different seminaries and theological institutions across India. The presentations covered a wide range of subjects, including healthcare, reproductive technology, employment, education, parenting, democratic governance, journalism and human relationships. Father Dr Gregory Malayil, CMI, also reflected on the use of AI in education and research.

The diversity of these contributions showed how deeply AI is entering different areas of human life. For moral theology, the challenge is not merely to identify the dangers of new technologies, but also to discern how they can be used responsibly and for the benefit of society. Such discernment requires engagement with real situations, especially those affecting vulnerable people and communities.

The need to bring theological reflection into everyday life was emphasised by Auxiliary Bishop Stephen Eustace Victor Fernandes of Bombay. He encouraged moral theologians to move beyond academic discussion and offer practical guidance to the communities they serve. This is particularly important for the Church, as AI increasingly influences education, healthcare, family life, communication and pastoral ministry. People need help to understand not only what these technologies can do, but also what they ought to do with them.

The conference reaffirmed the continuing relevance of moral theology in a rapidly changing world. AI offers genuine possibilities for human development, but its value cannot be measured

by efficiency or innovation alone. The more fundamental question is whether it serves human dignity, strengthens relationships and contributes to a more just society. The task before moral theologians is to ensure that technological progress remains accompanied by moral wisdom and a genuine concern for every human person.