

Part 2 Handout — What Faithful AI Use Actually Looks Like

Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP • NPM Convention • Washington, DC • July 22, 2026

This handout was outlined by Claude.ai based on the presenter's own script and research.

Where This Comes From

These guidelines draw on three families of sources: official Church teaching (Pope Leo XIV's encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, USCCB principles, and diocesan/archdiocesan guidelines like the Archdiocese of LA); NPM's own Generative AI Usage Directives (April 2026); and colleague examples — the Catholic Media Association's Fair Publishing Practices Code, and, with appropriate adaptation, the Episcopal Church and the United Church of Christ.

Four Themes We Keep Returning To

(My own synthesis, not a single document's checklist.)

- ✓ Human responsibility and pastoral authenticity
- ✓ Safeguarding liturgical and doctrinal integrity
- ✓ Respect for copyright and intellectual property
- ✓ Transparency and ongoing formation

1. Seasonal Repertoire & Sunday Planning

- ✓ Brainstorm repertoire with AI for a season/theme, then cross-check against approved hymnals, diocesan norms, and local context.
- ✓ Use AI-assisted tagging to organize your music library.
- ✗ Let AI choose repertoire or psalm settings *without human review* — especially for the Triduum, sacraments, or funerals.
- ✗ Treat an AI list as "already vetted."

Catholic-specific resource: "A Parish Inheritance" — a grassroots AI hymn-analysis framework, not a finished app (link below).

Canticle (Episcopalian Church) (link below)

2. Prayers, Intercessions & Worship Aids

- ✓ Use AI to draft Prayers of the Faithful, welcome statements, and translations — always followed by human review.

- ✗ Ask AI to adjust the Eucharistic Prayer, or modernize/reword the Missal, Lectionary, or Rite texts.

Sample prompt (Prayers of the Faithful): "Compose the Prayers of the Faithful for Second Sunday of Lent. The prayers should include an opening and closing prayer for the presider, totaling six petitions as follows: 1. For the universal church. 2. For public or national leaders and authorities. 3. For people burdened by any kind of difficulty. 4. For those in need or who may be ill in any way, especially _____. 5. An opportunity for individuals to silently offer their own prayers or write in the chat box. 6. Finally, a prayer for those who have passed away. Please reference the Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; and Matthew 17:1-9. I also have attached some key point from the homily."

Sample prompt (Welcome Statement): "Draft a warm, two-sentence welcome statement for our parish bulletin inviting newcomers to Sunday Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Church, New York, NY (<https://stpaultheapostle.org>). Mention that all are welcome wherever they are in their faith journey, and include our Mass times. Translate into Spanish and Vietnamese and suggest images that could accompany the statement."

3. Parish Communications & Catechesis

✓ Draft newsletter blurbs and choir-recruitment invitations; keep a human name and judgment behind everything published.

✗ Post AI-generated pastoral letters or catechetical content under a minister's name without real engagement or doctrinal review.

Sample prompt (newsletter): "Write a warm, 100-word bulletin blurb explaining why our choir is introducing the hymn [Alabaré al Señor (<https://www.reverbnation.com/rudyandstella/song/5326872-alabar-al-seor>) by Estela García-López y Rodolfo López (<https://www.ocp.org/en-us/artists/3509/rodolfo-lopez> and <https://www.ocp.org/en-us/artists/3510/estela-garcia-lopez>) for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Mention how it connects to this Sunday's readings (<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/070526.cfm>). Keep the tone welcoming and pastoral. And then translate it into ____."

Sample prompt (choir invitation): "Write a short, inviting paragraph recruiting new choir members. No experience required, rehearsals [day/time]. Keep it under 75 words."

4. Rehearsals, Scheduling & Library Management

✓ Use AI scheduling tools and AI-assisted tagging for your digital music library — only on diocesan-vetted platforms.

✗ Store personal data on parishioners, especially minors, in unvetted AI tools. Don't let automation replace real pastoral check-ins.

Sample prompt (library tagging): "For each PDF I've uploaded, identify the composer, title, and liturgical season or use. If unclear, mark it 'unclear.' Propose a file name (Season_Composer_Title) and present results as a table: Original Filename, Composer, Title, Season, Proposed Filename."

5. Copyright & Intellectual Property

AI does not change copyright law. Hymn texts and liturgical music remain protected under OneLicense, GIA, and OCP regardless of AI involvement; AI-produced "derivative" work can still infringe on what it was built from.

✓ Use AI to catalog music you legally own and to help you understand licensing language.

✗ Ask AI to reproduce full lyrics/scores *for distribution*, or to imitate a living composer's protected catalog and present that work publicly without legal advice.

Sample prompt (license summary): Take the terms of your own OneLicense or GIA agreement — your license terms, never the copyrighted music itself — and

- Ask an AI tool to summarize, in plain English, what you're actually permitted to do.
- Can you reprint this ____ in a worship aid?
- Does this include streaming service?
- Can I post a recording of this ____ online?

Transparency: The Authorship Test

The question isn't "did AI touch this at all" — it's "whose work is this, really?" Editing help (spell-check, tightening prose) needs no disclosure. A first draft AI produced outright, or an AI-generated image, does — including naming the tool.

Sample Parish Council Report

"As part of our commitment to transparency, this report notes where generative AI tools assisted in its preparation. AI was used to help organize data, summarize discussions, and draft portions of this document for staff review. All content was reviewed, verified, and approved by [name/title] before submission. No confidential parishioner information was entered into any AI tool in the preparation of this report."

Formation: Keep This Going

Name it (bring real examples into team conversation) → Test it (against Church teaching, the five frameworks, diocesan policy) → Own it (a human minister/team signs off on everything) → Repeat it (build this into ongoing formation, not a one-time memo).

The Complete Do's & Don'ts

- ✓ Use AI as a planning tool, never a complete replacement for a human person. Keep human discernment central. Respect official texts. Honor copyright. Be transparent. Invest in formation.
- ✗ Replace liturgical texts with AI content. Post AI-drafted messages under a minister's name without engagement. Distribute copyrighted music beyond license terms. Store minors' data in unvetted tools. Use deepfake or misleading imagery.

Key Resources & Links

- Magnifica Humanitas (Vatican, Pope Leo XIV) — <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>
- USCCB — Joint Letter on AI Principles and Priorities — <https://www.usccb.org/resources/AI%20Principles%20and%20Priorities%20Ltr%206%209%2025.pdf>
- NPM — Generative AI Usage Directives (April 2026) — <https://npm.org/2026/04/20/generative-artificial-intelligence-ai-usage-directives/>
- Archdiocese of LA Handbook, Ch. 10.10 — <https://handbook.la-archdiocese.org/chapter-10/section-10-10>
- Canticle (Episcopal Church): <https://getcanticle.com>
- Catholic Media Association — Fair Publishing Practices Code — <https://www.catholicmediaassociation.org/fair-publishing-practices-code>
- Episcopal Church — Task Force on AI & Intellectual Property — (*mandate; reports 2027*) https://extranet.generalconvention.org/governing_and_interim_bodies/interim_bodies/1547/mandate
- United Church of Christ — Generative AI for Local Churches — <https://www.ucc.org/generative-artificial-intelligence-for-local-churches-an-update/>
- "A Parish Inheritance" AI Hymn-Analysis Framework — <https://www.motherofmercy catholic hymns.com/interest-grows-in-ai-tools-for-a-parish-inheritance/>
- OneLicense FAQ — <https://www.onelicense.net/faqs>

Coming Soon

The Catholic Handbook on AI: Promise, Prudence, and Pastoral Wisdom

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rickymanalo.org/faithmeetsai • CatholicFaithAI.org