

Impact of Technology on Relationships - Encyclical Quotes

Using the [Two Stray, One Stay](#) strategy, have students explore the message of the quote in relation to how technology can positively or negatively impact authentic relationships.

‘The economy accepts every advance in technology with a view to profit, without concern for its potentially negative impact on human beings.’

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* n109.

‘The media’s noisy potpourri of facts and opinions is often an obstacle to dialogue, since it lets everyone cling stubbornly to their own ideas, interests and choices, with the excuse that everyone else is wrong.’

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* n201.

‘Digital connectivity is not enough to build bridges. It is not capable of uniting humanity.’

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* n43.

‘The digital world can expose you to the risk of self-enclosure, isolation, and empty pleasure. But do not let this prevent you from using technology wisely, as a means of sharing the Gospel and values of human dignity, justice, and solidarity.’

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit* n104.

‘living in a highly digitalized culture that has had a profound impact on ideas of time and space, on our self-understanding, our understanding of others and the world, and our ability to communicate, learn, be informed and enter into relationship with others. An approach to reality that privileges images over listening and reading has influenced the way people learn and the development of their critical sense.’

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit* n86.

‘The web and social networks have created a new way to communicate and bond. They are “a public square where the young spend much of their time and meet one another easily, even though not all have equal access to it, particularly in some regions of the world. They provide an extraordinary opportunity for dialogue, encounter and exchange between persons, as well as access to information and knowledge. Moreover, the digital world is one of social and political engagement and active citizenship, and it can facilitate the circulation of independent information providing effective protection for the most vulnerable and publicizing violations of their rights. In many countries, the internet and social networks already represent a firmly established forum for reaching and involving young people, not least in pastoral initiatives and activities.’

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit* n87.

‘online relationships can become inhuman. Digital spaces blind us to the vulnerability of another human being and prevent us from our own self-reflection.’

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit* n90.

‘Young people today are the first to have to effect this synthesis between what is personal, what is distinctive to their respective cultures, and what is global. This means that they must find ways to pass from virtual contact to good and healthy communication.’

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit* n90.

‘the most extraordinary scientific advances, the most amazing technical abilities, the most astonishing economic growth, unless they are accompanied by authentic social and moral progress, will definitively turn against man.’

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* n4.

‘It should not be forgotten that “there are huge economic interests operating in the digital world, capable of exercising forms of control as subtle as they are invasive, creating mechanisms for the manipulation of consciences and of the democratic process.”’

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit* n89.

‘Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all these are essential for quality human relationships and for enabling society itself to react against injustices, aberrations and abuses of economic, technological, political and media power.’

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* n167.

‘The way many platforms work often ends up favouring encounter between persons who think alike, shielding them from debate. These closed circuits facilitate the spread of fake news and false information, fomenting prejudice and hate. The proliferation of fake news is the expression of a culture that has lost its sense of truth and bends the facts to suit particular interests. The reputation of individuals is put in jeopardy through summary trials conducted online.’

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit* n89.

‘We fail to keep our attention focused, to penetrate to the heart of matters, and to recognize what is essential to give meaning to our lives. Freedom thus becomes an illusion that we are peddled, easily confused with the ability to navigate the internet. The process of building fraternity, be it local or universal, can only be undertaken by spirits that are free and open to authentic encounters.’

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* n50.

‘Digital media can also expose people to the risk of addiction, isolation and a gradual loss of contact with concrete reality, blocking the development of authentic interpersonal relationships.’

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit* n88.