



GUEST LECTURE · YOUTH LEADERS · ROME 2026

PEACE BY CO-CREATION

Young Leaders Building Peace in the AI Age

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Class of Sister Martha Ann Kirk, CCVI · Charter for Compassion

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Sister Martha Ann Kirk, dear young leaders, dear friends,

Thank you, Sister Martha Ann, for welcoming me into your class, and thank you to the Charter for Compassion for preparing young people to take part in the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Rome on December 2–4.

As you prepare to gather in Rome, I invite you to begin a piece of work today: choose one problem that divides people, bring others together, and use your abilities—including your ability to work with AI—to help address it.

Imagine that a video appears on your phone. It seems to show a religious leader insulting another community. Your friends are angry. Someone asks you to share it. Within minutes, people who have never met begin to see one another as enemies.

Now imagine that you pause. You ask where the video came from. You seek the original recording. You contact someone who understands the language and the context. You discover that the video has been manipulated, or that the evidence is insufficient to know what happened. You explain what you know without repeating the accusation as fact.

That pause is an act of leadership. It gives truth a chance to catch up with anger. It protects people who might otherwise bear the consequences of a lie.

In AIWS Lumina, the Bald Eagle stands for this kind of leadership. The eagle does not flee the storm; it spreads its wings, and the storm lifts it higher. We describe the Eagle Spirit through five qualities: Freedom, Vision, Innovation, Courage, and Responsibility. The pause before you share is courage in a small storm. And the eagle does not rise for itself alone. It crosses the storm to protect others and to open the way for those who follow.

AI can help manufacture deception. It can also help translate a conversation, compare accounts, and make knowledge more accessible. Its answers still require judgment and verification. What we choose to do with these capabilities matters—and each of you can make those choices responsibly.

My subject today is Peace by Co-Creation: people working across faiths and cultures, and co-creating with AI under human direction and responsibility, to advance peace. I want to explore what this means for your leadership, and what you can bring to Rome as evidence of work already begun.

The leaders you will encounter at the Summit have confronted difficult questions about peace. You can honor their experience by listening closely and bringing your own honest questions. You can also contribute something essential: a willingness to test ideas in your communities and learn from the people whose lives you hope to improve.

From Taormina to Human Responsibility

I recently completed an invitation to interfaith co-creation for peace in Taormina, in a former Dominican convent—a place shaped by silence and prayer. In 2017, that same place welcomed the leaders of the G7. That year, Boston Global Forum sent those leaders the Taormina Plan, proposing ways to prevent cyber conflict and combat disinformation. It was also the year AIWS was born.

Reflecting there, nine years later, I returned to a conviction: power cannot keep the peace alone. It needs conscience beside it.

For a young leader, conscience becomes visible in ordinary decisions. Do I correct a false claim when it benefits my own side? Do I listen to someone whose experience challenges my assumptions? Do I ask permission before using another person's story? Am I prepared to acknowledge an error publicly?

These choices establish whether people can trust us with greater responsibility. They also shape the institutions we will eventually lead.

Through AIWS Civilization, we seek to connect human values with the institutions, technology, and everyday practices that can sustain them. Human–AI Co-Creation belongs within that larger purpose. People define the goals, exercise judgment, and remain answerable for the consequences. AI can assist us in exploring ideas and developing solutions. Our responsibility continues throughout that process.

We should judge progress by what it makes possible for human beings: greater understanding, stronger agency, more opportunities to create, and a better capacity to care for one another and the natural world.

AIWS Lumina expresses this aspiration through Love, Creativity, Nobility, and Wisdom. Love asks whose suffering we have overlooked. Creativity helps us imagine a response. Nobility

gives us the integrity to act responsibly, including when doing so is inconvenient. Wisdom helps us understand the context and the limits of our own knowledge.

Trust grows when these values become conduct that others can examine. A young leader who explains a decision, admits uncertainty, and repairs a mistake is already helping build a culture of trust. You do not need to wait for a senior position to begin.

The Solution and Your Voice in It

Our invitation offers a solution through four pathways of Peace by Co-Creation. Each creates a place for your participation. These pathways require sustained work, capable partners, and learning from experience. I invite you to help shape them.

The first is a constitutional home for conscience.

The Constitution for Humanity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence will be proclaimed at Harvard on April 27, 2027. Through an Interfaith Circle within the Global Consultation, we invite faith leaders and communities to contribute the moral wisdom of their traditions. Young people have an important voice in that conversation.

You will live with the long-term consequences of decisions now being made about AI. Bring us a principle that matters to your generation, and explain the human experience behind it. Perhaps you believe that a student should be able to question an AI-assisted decision affecting an educational opportunity. Perhaps your community needs protection against the deceptive use of a person's voice or image. Describe the situation carefully. Tell us what protection is needed, who should provide it, and how someone could seek a remedy when it fails.

A principle becomes stronger when it answers a real human need. Your contribution can help us connect constitutional aspirations with daily life.

The second pathway is an early warning against AI-made hatred.

The AIWS Trust Observatory will open an Interfaith Watch. Communities will be invited to report suspected AI-generated incitement to violence or discrimination. The Observatory will assess reports, seek verification, engage relevant platforms and AI developers, and publicly track responses and remedies.

Your role can begin with responsible observation. Preserve the source and context of a suspicious item. Distinguish what you have verified from what you suspect. Seek qualified help where necessary. Avoid exposing private information or amplifying harmful material merely to condemn it.

This work must protect freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression. Criticism, disagreement, and debate deserve room. Incitement to violence or discrimination demands a responsible response. Learning to distinguish them requires care and humility.

When another community faces such incitement, our concern should reach beyond our own identities. A person who feels abandoned becomes more vulnerable to fear. Solidarity can help restore the possibility of trust.

Growing Through Co-Creation

The third pathway is a measure of whether AI serves peace.

At AIWS Lumina Lab, we have developed the Human Advancement Test to help people reflect on their own development through working with AI. We want to know whether the person using the technology is becoming more capable.

After a project, ask yourself: What do I now understand that I did not understand before? Where did I challenge an answer from AI? Did I recognize a weak assumption, request a better response, and judge whether the result actually improved? Can I explain the final work in my own words and take responsibility for it?

Then ask a question that reaches further: After working with AI, do I feel greater love for other people and the natural world?

Consider what that means in practice. If you use AI to prepare a story about refugees, have you taken time to hear the people whose lives you describe? Have you preserved their dignity and checked the details? Has the work helped you understand their choices more fairly? A fluent story can still fail the people it claims to represent.

Keep a brief record of your answers over time. Notice where your judgment becomes stronger and where you remain dependent on assistance. Let that record guide your learning.

The fourth pathway is a shared light.

Through *The Beauty of Humanity for the AI Age*, AIWS Lumina invites each tradition to share a gift: a practice, a work of art, a place of prayer, or another expression of its contribution to humanity, with the consent and guidance of the community concerned.

On December 3, while the Summit meets in Rome, Boston Global Forum and AIWS will hold the Festival of the Light Tree of Humanity on Boston Common, on the evening of the Boston Common Tree Lighting. We invite each tradition to contribute a message of peace—a Light for Peace—for AIWS Lumina to share at the Festival.

You can help create that message with someone from a different culture or belief. Ask what brings that person hope, what they wish others understood, and what they are willing to build with you. Let the message emerge from an actual encounter. AI may assist with translation or expression; the meaning and the relationship belong to you.

A shared light becomes powerful when there is a human commitment behind it.

One Team, One Act of Peace

I would like to give you a practical invitation for the weeks between today and the Summit: One Team, One Act of Peace.

Form a small team. Where possible, include someone whose background or perspective differs from your own. Choose one problem close enough for you to understand and small enough for you to address responsibly before you travel to Rome.

You might bring together students who rarely speak across a religious or cultural divide. You might help a community organization prepare a carefully verified, multilingual guide to recognizing manipulated media. You might record—with permission—stories from people who feel unheard, and create a conversation in which others can respond respectfully.

Begin by listening. Ask the people concerned whether the problem you have identified is the one they want help addressing. Their answers may change your plan; that is a sign the work is becoming grounded. Then decide where AI can help—suggesting interview questions, assisting with translation, organizing information—and who will check the facts, review sensitive language, and approve the final result. Do not enter private stories or identifying details into an AI service without informed permission and appropriate safeguards.

Carry out one useful action that fits your capacity and the needs of those involved. A small discussion that helps participants understand one another is a meaningful beginning. Then ask honestly what changed, what evidence supports it, what went wrong, and what you would do differently. Honesty about a modest result makes the next effort more valuable.

Prepare a one-page account for your conversations in Rome. Explain the problem, the respective contributions of people and AI, what happened, and what you learned. Include one question you would like to ask a Nobel Peace Laureate or another participant—a question that grows from experience.

Your act of peace can also become part of a larger record. On September 23, at the Massachusetts State House, we launched the AIWS Human–AI Co-Creation Movement on one principle: Humanity leads. AI elevates. Together, we create. I invite every team that carries out its act of peace to join the Movement. In January 2027, the Human–AI Co-Creation Atlas opens as the record of people building the Civilization of Human–AI Co-Creation, and the Movement has its own section there. Your work can be recorded in it. On April 27, 2027, at Harvard, the Movement will recognize its Founding Pioneers—the individuals and groups who led the way in its founding year.

You would not only be preparing for a summit. You would be among the first to write the record of a new civilization.

The Humanity We Raise Together

Before I close, I invite you to think for a moment about one person you find difficult to understand. It may be someone from another faith, another country, or a political community far from your own.

What would you need to learn before you could describe that person's concerns fairly? What question could you ask that would open a conversation? What useful task might you be able to undertake together?

You do not have to resolve every disagreement. Peaceful cooperation often begins with a limited, sincere commitment that both sides can keep. The experience of keeping it creates room for a further step.

The traditions of humanity have long spoken about the ascent of the human spirit. During my journey through Europe, I have reflected on Paradiso and on how we can give practical expression to our highest aspirations here, in this world. For AIWS, that means a civilization in which people lead, AI supports human flourishing, and everyone has the opportunity to create and contribute.

This aspiration asks for patient work. It asks us to build institutions that are accountable, protect people whose voices are weak, and cultivate the judgment to use powerful tools well. It also asks us to preserve joy, beauty, and the ability to recognize goodness in one another.

Your generation has a part in this work now. You can establish habits that will accompany you into positions of greater influence: checking before sharing, listening before deciding, questioning the tools you use, and taking responsibility for the effects of your actions.

When you meet in Rome, listen to those who have devoted their lives to peace. Ask them about the difficult decisions, the failures, and the relationships that sustained their work. Share what you have begun. Look for a collaborator whose experience can improve it. Leave with a next step that you intend to carry through.

Come to Rome with one act of peace already underway. Show how working with AI has helped you understand more deeply, connect more thoughtfully, and serve more effectively. Let the people you have worked with help judge the value of what you have done.

*The peace of the AI Age will be measured not only by the weapons we refuse,
but by the humanity we raise together.*

Thank you.

LOVE · CREATIVITY · NOBILITY · WISDOM

