

*The illusion of digital communication.*

*Technology, innovation and human rights in the teachings of Pope Francis.*

In October 2020 Pope Francis – Head of the Catholic Church and one of the most authoritative global leaders – signed “All Brothers”, the social Encyclical suggesting a path to build a better, fairer, and more peaceful world.

My contribution will focus on some pages in the Encyclical outlining how a rise in scientific and technological innovation has not necessarily generated a higher level of fairness, justice, and social inclusion.

In particular, the new media and digital networks contribute to create “a new culture at the service of the most powerful”, to the “advantage of the opportunism of financial speculation” and favouring “exploitation, where the poor are always the losers”.

Moreover, digital platforms have amplified the sounding rooms of verbal violence, producing in the virtual world exacerbated individualism, “information without wisdom” and illusory communication. To counter this trend, the Encyclical urges everyone to cultivate relationships with interlocutors in the real world, shifting from online communication’s frantic pace to silence and listening.