

## **Interview with a Former AI Researcher — the Pope’s Preacher!**

Rev. Fr. Roberto Pasolini, OFM Cap., Preacher of the Pontifical Household,

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*The pope’s personal preacher says that AI might help us discover and focus on what makes us truly human: those things that require heart and love.*

*Excerpt:*

### **AI could help us rediscover ourselves**

#### **Isn’t the prospect of AI eventually replacing human communication frightening?**

**Fr. Pasolini:** I believe that artificial intelligence will give us an even better understanding of what makes us human, that little something that only we can do — and that we often don’t do.

We often spend our days performing a series of tasks that a computer could just as easily do, and we may only put 1% of our true humanity into them — that is, our feelings, what we feel deeply.

I believe that if we’re all so tired, it’s because we already live a little like computers: We do too many things, one after the other, without ever really being present in what we’re doing. We act because we have to act. The fact that, soon, most things will be able to be done by a computer will force us to ask ourselves: Where do we choose to put our heart and love today?

Artificial intelligence could overwhelm us even more if we aren’t careful. But if, on the contrary, we show a little spiritual intelligence, we could give ourselves the freedom to delegate a whole series of things that a computer can do for us — and give ourselves the freedom to really put sensitivity, love, and a focus on others into what we do.

Let me give you an example: today, artificial intelligence can write an important text, and that’s fine. The key thing is that if I have to read this text in front of people, then I can transform it into a human act. I can look people in the eye and decide where to place the emphasis.

So we always remain free: free to remain human or to become like machines. We must be “concerned” about what’s coming, but not “afraid”; because fear never leads us in a good direction.