

Explain 3 Major Problems Facing Pope Leo the XIV's Catholic Church Today

Second Place Winner – Grace O'Connor

Our Catholic Church today led by Pope Leo XIV, is constantly facing various problems. The Catholic Church has seen drastic declines in followers of Christ throughout the past 30 years for various reasons. Pope Leo XIV has the responsibility of leading and guiding the Church away from its many issues in his time. The three major problems I believe that are affecting the church in the greatest ways are artificial intelligence, lack of Bible knowledge, and social media.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the main factors towards declining faith. Artificial intelligence has driven many, especially the younger generation, away from the Church. Artificial intelligence provides straight-forward answers essentially leading many away from critically thinking for themselves. Often, many believe misinformation just for the reason that artificial intelligence is the convenient, and again the straight forward way to their answers. In faith, there is not always the immediate answers to questions. In being a Catholic you have to trust in God over any other source. There are multiple times around which any Catholic is faced with fear, worry, and trust issues in faith. Artificial intelligence gives the straight answer to many of these fears, ultimately dragging away many from the Catholic Church where instead of using these sources, we should turn to God for the answer.

In Mass, there are countless times where biblical references are indicated. In the younger generation, biblical knowledge has decreased and many are not knowledgeable about the references, and how helpful the Bible truly is in following the Catholic faith. As I mentioned before, many are drawn to artificial intelligence for answers to their faith, instead of the main source, the Bible. The Bible has the answers to help one grow and understand the God they are willing to be a part of the Catholic Church for. In the homily, the priest explains Scripture in a way where it connects to our daily lives today. With lack of biblical knowledge, it is challenging to understand the Gospel reading along with the homily that is explaining the reading in such a way that can implement our lives physically and spiritually.

With artificial intelligence taking a big step in changing technology, there is also another main factor drawing many away from the Church. Social media has various platforms with the intent of learning and expressing yourself to others, Social media has drastically increased in usage, especially targeting the younger generation. Many are drawn to idolize many who they see online, aspiring to be just like them and their lifestyle. Many creators on social media provide incompetent standards especially targeting those in the younger generation. Social media is intriguing and often leads to an addiction of it, leaving not only the younger generation, but also older generations away from following Christ and attending Mass. With this platform, many have taken advantage of it as well.

Many have said striking misinformation about religion and the Catholic Church that has turned many away from God just because of their comment or post. It is one of the main distractions of our world drawing many away from being a part of the Church.

These are the three major problems I believe that are effecting the Catholic Church that Pope Leo XIV reigns today. These problems are mainly aimed towards the younger generation because the younger generation is the future of the Church. The younger generation, along with Pope Leo XIV, holds the responsibility of keeping the Church strong for years to come despite these challenges, so many can create relationships with God.

Knights of Columbus Council 1672

2026 Essay Contest

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