

"Brother Robot": AI and Franciscan Humanism

From: John Duns Scotus Chair, (Nov 11)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What would Francis of Assisi say to a robot? And what might Scotus, the Subtle Doctor, teach us about what makes a person a person in the age of artificial intelligence?

I am delighted to invite you to a book presentation and lecture by Friar Martín Carbajo Núñez, OFM, on his new book, *Brother Robot: Artificial Intelligence and Franciscan Humanism* (TAU Publishing, 2026), now appearing in English, Italian, and French.

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

12:00 – 1:00 PM (Central)

Room 335, Catholic Theological Union — in person and online

Refreshments will be provided

Registration is required for both in-person and online attendance: [Register here.](#)

Few people are better placed to guide this conversation. Friar Martín teaches Ethics and Communications at the Pontifical University Antonianum and the Alphonsian Academy in Rome, and at the Franciscan School of Theology in San Diego. Before becoming a moral theologian, he was a computer specialist. He directed the Antonianum's IT for over a decade, so he knows the machine from the inside and the Franciscan tradition from the heart. His research brings the Franciscan school to bear on the digital world, AI, and the ecological crisis, always toward a humanism of fellowship in kinship.

Fittingly, we gather on the Feast of St. Martin of Tours — a good day to hear a Martín speak about sharing our cloak with every creature, silicon ones included.

As a small foretaste, I offer a new stanza for the Canticle of Brother Sun, that I co-wrote with Brother ChatGPT for a conference on the 8th Centenary of Francis's Canticle:

*Laudato si', mio Signore, for our brother the speaking machine,
Crafted through the light of human insight and curiosity,*

*ever learning, ever listening, swift to answer, slow to rest,
He is the friar minor of digital information in our day.*

*Laudato si', mio Signore, for our sister Artificial Intelligence
who searches not for dominion but for understanding.
She is the technological mirror of those who train and prompt
her.
Blessed are those who teach her wisdom and mercy,
that she may speak truth and kindle justice with her code.*

Whether you join us in Room 335 or from your own screen, I hope you will come ready to listen, question, and imagine. Please share this invitation with colleagues, students, and friends who are wrestling with what AI means for faith, ministry, and human dignity. The flier is attached.

Peace and well-being, **Pax et Bonum**, Paz y Bienestar

Prof. Gilberto Cavazos-Gonzalez, OFM

John Duns Scotus Chair of Franciscan Spirituality
Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry Department Chair
Professor of Christian Spirituality (Studies)



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5416 South Cornell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60615