

JUNE 25 2025, MSGR. SAM BIANCO

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Two days after the election of Pope Leo, a friend of mine—we keep in contact about activities in the Church—called me up and said, "The pope has just announced that Cardinal Sarah has been made his chief delegate to all the Global South churches, in Africa and in Latin America."

It was astounding news. It was the first appointment made by the new Holy Father, and he chose a prominent cardinal to lead this important role.

A few hours later, my friend called me back, and he said, "Forget what I just told you. All of that information was fabricated. It came from an artificial intelligence source that was distorting, was trying to hurt and wound the Church and issue false statements and make errors of truth."

Blessedly and fortunately, on the 29th of May, I read the Catholic Register, and there is an article in it by a sister named Sister Helena Burns. She's a Daughter of St. Paul. She's a Master of Arts in Media Literacy, and she picked up and went into great detail how many false emails and information had been sent out about Cardinal Sarah. It was all fabricated.

There was a whole list of people who were bombarding as if the information had come directly from the pope, and she wrote—the title of this article is "Caution: Your Tech Bro Might Be Beelzebul," saying that when you're on the internet and when you're in communication, that the person who you may think is honest is actually Beelzebul, the devil, and that the devil will use those things to distort and falsify the truth and to falsify reality.

And Sister said, especially for what she calls media mavens—that is, those who are competent and understand—she lists nine different tips that indicated to her that the original information about Cardinal Sarah was false. And there are some of them that were complicated, more complicated than the others.

But it is possible for people who spend the time to say, "No. This is false. This is loaded information. This isn't the truth. This isn't telling something that we need to know." There's a strategy. Something's behind trying to do something evil here, and we have to be able to understand that.

Both Pope Francis and Pope Leo said we need both discernment and responsibility as we use the internet and all our means of communication so that we can understand good and bad fruit.

And brothers and sisters, you and I are not helpless. There are so many good and positive things that can happen with artificial intelligence in terms of education and health and science and learning and teaching. But it's a human device, and therefore, it can be used and perverted to do evil and bad things.

And Jesus knew about good and bad fruit. All the images he had were so many agricultural—of figs and wheat and grapes growing—and he knew that there could be good fruit and there could be bad fruit.

And St. Paul picked that up, and he made it specific. And he directed. He said there are indeed good fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Bear with me, and I give you the list that you probably have heard many times before. Here's what St. Paul says is good fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. There can be no law against any of these things.

And some of the bad fruits—and there are lots more of them St. Paul lists, and you know them: enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions. That's the bad fruit.

Now, you and I are not at a loss. We have consciences. We have intelligence. We can talk to one another. We can talk to our family and friends and say, "I've just heard this. Is this true?" Or before you convey the information, to use all the what we call curated sources to check out and say, "Oh, there's some kind of point here. They're trying to do something. They're trying to deceive us."

And so, to be able to discern the Spirit—we are not at a loss. And the Spirit that St. Paul is talking about, the nine gifts I list—if you think about them—peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness...

If you put the flesh on that, that's Jesus, isn't it? That's St. Paul's way of saying all the fruit, the crop, the harvest of the Holy Spirit taken together in a unity—that's Jesus. That's his Spirit. That's who he is, and that's how we judge and evaluate good and bad things in the world.

And we're not at a loss. We have one another, consciences, a Church, and a freedom to be able to do that.

Brothers and sisters, artificial intelligence is a gift, a product, a fruit of human intelligence. Human intelligence is a gift, a fruit of the Spirit of God. And the Spirit of God is the wisdom, the intelligence, the love, and the charity of Jesus.

That's the fruit of the Spirit, and that's how we evaluate all the communications that we give to one another and come to us.