



S S P X

A Dangerous Dependence

Continued from the inside

communication of information between the neurons and certain parts of the brain. It provokes a sensation of pleasure. Whether from drugs, the stimulation of curiosity, the winning and playing a game, consulting digital devices, the surprise of a notification, it is a system of reward which engenders a dependence.

Designers of social media, games, and online shopping design for dopamine.

The dependence on video games, games on the smartphone, following and using social media and news sites dull the mental capacities linked to judgment and reflection. Like any drug, it necessitates a ever-increasing stimulation to obtain the same pleasure as before.

The use of screens by small children is the source of deficiencies in numerous domains. Dr. Anne-Lise Ducanda wrote in 2017 of the striking increase of autistic behaviors in children that she saw. The frequent use of screens was the usual diagnosed cause—parents having given over to tablets and other screens for their educative mission. Trouble maintaining attention and concentrating, using language, behavioral problems, sleep difficulties and thus academic struggles were the most visible consequences of this new slavery.

Eyes fixed for 5-6 hours a day on a screen, children became incapable of responding to a question asked them, to put the pieces of a game together, or even less to hold a pencil. Their language was not structured and showed serious deficiency in syntax and vocabulary. The child left in front of screens cannot participate in a true exchange of conversation. A deficiency of thought and refracting naturally follows.

At a more advanced age, one notices the effects of social media: narcissistic behavior, confirmity to worldly standards, a sickening obsession to please themselves and judge themselves important, a selfishness that des-

icates real human relationships. Then there is the mania of judging everything: to give one's advice and to express one's sentiments and tastes to a crowd of anonymous connections makes minds accept the tyranny of opinion over truth.

As regards character development, the regular use of screens, video games, and the Internet favours the disorder of passions and the weakening of the will: an incessant curiosity, impulsivity, and egotism. Having no moral limits, the virtual world is open to all forms of violence, all possibilities of voyeurism and immorality, and to a life ruled by the lowest instincts of man wounded by original sin.

The intelligence and the memory are the great victims of the machine, Man becomes content to sense, as a simple animal. One can then domesticate him.

Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, forbid his children a smartphone before age 14. Steve Jobs, late co-founder of Apple, refused digital devices to his children. Chamath Palihapitiya, forme VP at Facebook, forbids his children social media. Chris Anderson, former Editor of *Wired*, limits the use devices by his children. For his family, a rule of life: no screens in bedrooms. Numerous children of employees from eBay, Google, Apple, and Yahoo! attend schools which reject technology use in the classroom. Technologists understand a good academic formation and a healthy education avoids digital devices and the dependence on the smartphone.

We have not finished discovering the consequences of the digital revolution, which are becoming a reality before our eyes. Already, though, the bitter fruits of these technologies are obvious. Choosing to live as a man presupposes knowing what man is and what the machine is, even when its ability exceed our own. The survival of true humanity and the relationship of man with God depends on it.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

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St Anthony's Church

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Priests' Weekday Residence



Schedule and Information

Mass

First Fridays — 7 P.M.
 Saturdays — 8 A.M.
 Sundays — 9 A.M.
 (Fourth Sundays) 9 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Confessions

Saturdays — 7:30 A.M.
 Sundays — 8:15 A.M.
and by appointment

Other Sacraments

Marriages must be arranged with the pastor at least 6 months in advance. For Extreme Unction, or Sick Calls, or other concerns consult the pastor.

For Sacramental Emergencies call 022 522 8171 or 06-281 3976.

Blessing of Religious Objects

Leave items on the vestibule table with a name on them. They will be marked 'blessed'.

Catholic Enquiry Classes

Consult the pastor to arrange for classes in preparation to enter the Church.

Other Nearby Occasional Mass Locations :

Hamilton

4 Comries Road
 Terry Goodall — 07-855 1790
First, Third and Fifth Sundays
 Confessions — 1:30 P.M.
 Mass — 2:00 P.M.

Whangarei (Maungatapere)

1182 State Highway 14
Second Sunday of the Month
 Confessions — 1:30 P.M.
 Mass — 2:00 P.M.

Bank Transfer information for Donations

Westpac (Whanganui Branch)
 Society of St Pius X, General Account
 03-0791-0293304-00

Indicate : "IHM Church"
*Also, send your name and donation number to
 info@sspx.org.nz or 06-344 3814*

A Dangerous Dependence

From *The Angelus* (9/2018), by Fr Philippe Bourrat:

SCREENS and digital devices, which have taken hold on the lives of people, are not just useful machines. They transform the human universe.

The constant connection of man to the machine, with the advent of the smartphone, is one of the most visible manifestations of the digital and social revolution that has occurred in developed countries. While the widespread implantation of digital devices is awaiting, everything is done in order that dependence on this pocket computer becomes irreversible. Applications of all types have invaded every aspect of daily life:

games, videos, services, commerce, health, leisure, culture, information and security; everything passes by the mobile screen. Now we have social networks.

The result is another life, traced out by technology. Relying on the data of the smartphone, the constant consultation of machines distance us more and more from real life, from people and reality surrounding us. A new happiness is created in expressing tastes, publishing trivial sentiments, jokes, and likes. Machines analyze what is good for you, anticipates activity or purchases. A simply natural life will not be more envisioned in the upcoming year than would be the return

Mass Changes

Extra Masses this week and weekend :

Fri., 16 August : Mass @ 8 A.M.
 Sat., 17 August : Masses @ 8 A.M. & 6 P.M.

Confirmations

Msrgr Fellay will offer the Sacrament of Confirmation and Mass at 6 P.M. on Saturday, 17 August. Please note, this is not a "Vigil Mass" and does not fulfil your Sunday obligation. A shared meal will follow in the unit.

Rosary Crusade for Life

Given the grave harm to the common good

to candles as the ordinary way of lighting.

The Transformation of Man

That which the movies used to confie to science fiction, the digital giants (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft, etc.), already realize. More than the obvious financial gain, this revolution would like to reinvent man, making him a creature of science and technology. Ultimately, man becomes god, an immortal and omniscient god.

Their materialism and scientific ambition opposes any idea of a moral limit, let alone any respect for natural or divine law. For these, no earthly happiness, no dignified human life exists except which will benefit from the ever-increasing potential of digital progress. Genetic disease, physical weakness, intellectual deficiencies must be repaired in order that human life be judged compatible with the standards of the time. Eugenics and euthanasia, become the two cornerstones of modern life. They are now the great business of the digital devisors, who spend billions of dollars on research in these fields.

A Return to Order

Human life is not reduced to good health, to the satisfaction of one's body, or to the removal of all limitations. The happiness of man does not consist in a knowledge of an online encyclopedia or abilities to analyze or calculate like software which has long ago

Announcements

threatened by the End of Life Choices Bill and the Abortion Reform Bill, and the utter failure of New Zealand clergy to oppose it, the SSPX is launching a Rosary Crusade. See our website (sspx.org.nz/crusadeforlife), or the poster for more information. Please spread the word and recruit as many as possible. Please ask before putting up any signs or leaving literature.

Fourth Sunday Mass

Attendance not sufficient to justify the extra Mass on the 4th Sunday, it will be discontinued. In the future, if enough people request we can reconsider. We will have the extra Mass on Sunday, 25 August as planned, however.

exceeded human intelligence. The happiness of man rests in God and in the participation of His life that has been offered to us since the Incarnation, not by the conquest by man himself of a digital earthly life.

Man is made to know and to love God who created him. Technology cannot replace in man the desire to love and be loved, to invent, to express in art his reflections on life, death, love, or on the natural world which surrounds him. No robot nor software can replace artistic genius, nor love, nor courage, virtue, nor liberty, no matter how sophisticated it is.

Natural human life must still exist, unless we wish to renounce the humanity desired and created by God. This human life is put in danger by the omnipresence of technology. Before, the machine aided man to accomplish or facilitate tasks necessary for life. By making easier often difficult takes he had time for contemplation and properly human activity. Now the smartphone—and all that it represents—constitutes the center of his life. It dictates his actions, his thoughts, his knowledge, his tastes, his purchases, his deportment, his morals, and his virtual social life. The slave consents to depend solely on his control screen to which he surrenders his body and soul. To give this up would already be for him a taste of death. This dependence is really dehumanizing.

Effects of Dependence

Dopamine is a biochemical molecule that permits
Continued on the back