

# A Tool That Opens People Rather Than Closes Them

*Ethos Lite and its alignment with the encyclical Magnifica Humanitas of Pope Leo XIV*

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## THE DIFFERENT QUESTION

### One question, and everything follows

Most technology asks how to get people to use it more. Ethos Lite asks a different one — how to genuinely help a person, and know when to step back.

*A system built to maximise engagement treats a person who returns every day as a win. Ethos Lite treats a person who no longer needs it as the win.*

## THE POPE'S QUESTION

### A standard worth being measured against

In Magnifica Humanitas (2026), Pope Leo XIV asks the question every builder should have to answer. His concern is the technocratic paradigm — the person optimised rather than accompanied, attention captured, judgment quietly surrendered.

*Does this technology make human life truly more human — in every aspect of that life?*

He names what genuine service looks like: transparent and traceable, human judgment kept sovereign, the vulnerable actively served, people pointed toward real relationship rather than kept from it. **We built Ethos Lite against that standard — and we name the gaps honestly.**

## A KNOWLEDGE ASSISTANT WITH A CONSCIENCE

### What the system is

It reasons over your own documents and gives answers you can trace and verify — telling you where an answer came from, when it is inferring, and when it does not know. Its values are declared and readable: visible and chosen, not invisible and assumed.

**Nothing happens invisibly** — It shows what it intends before acting. You remain the person in charge.

**Your data stays yours** — Self-hosted and role-based — yours to see, correct, or delete.

**Nothing pulls you back** — No notifications, no streaks, no manufactured warmth. It wants nothing from you but to be useful.

## THE INTENTION LAYER

### Accompanying a person who has a direction

Before it engages, you name what you are working toward. When an intention is rooted in self-diminishment, it offers — never imposes — a gentler way to see yourself, warm and without weight,

because goodness is not a burden. Over time a private map takes shape: yours to see, correct, and delete. A mirror, not a profile.

It notices when it is used more rather than less, and says so — because rising reliance means something real is missing elsewhere. And when you leave, it asks one question:

*Who in your real life could hold part of what you have been bringing here?*

*It names its own limit, and sends you back toward the people who actually know you.*

MEASURED AGAINST THE MARKET

**Intention is not enough. Here is the evidence**

Scored on the encyclical’s own dimensions against a typical mainstream assistant. The low marks we still carry — and the one row where the market matches us — are named, not hidden.

DIMENSION (WHAT THE ENCYCLICAL ASKS)	MARKET	ETHOS LITE	WHERE IT STANDS — HONESTLY
<b>Success = flourishing, not use</b> §12 · §170	1 /8	<b>8</b> /8	Complete — the refusal of engagement lives in the code, not the copy.
<b>Honest about what it is</b> §100	1 /7	<b>6</b> /7	Declares it is a tool, not a friend. An adversarial eval to prove the block under pressure is the next step.
<b>Truth with graduated confidence</b> §105 · §132	3 /8	<b>7</b> /8	Now backed by attribution checking — each “grounded” claim is traced to its source, turning a disclaimer into a check.
<b>Visible, inspectable values</b> §107	1 /7	<b>6</b> /7	Declared and versioned on screen; faithful application still to be audited by people formed in the tradition.
<b>Offered, never imposed</b> §112 · §128	3 /7	<b>6</b> /7	Preserves your words. The one edge: automated observation, which a human check will temper.
<b>Points to real people</b> §100 · §239	2 /6	<b>5</b> /6	Routes outward — and now hands off in crisis. A standing accompaniment network is the human-layer build.
<b>Your inner life is yours</b> §171 · §178	2 /8	<b>8</b> /8	Complete — visible, sourced, correctable, deletable. Verified: nothing logged behind your back.
<b>Data sovereignty in practice</b> §108 · §178	1 /7	<b>5</b> /7	The self-map is yours; the enterprise self-hosting path is being extended so Lite’s conversations stay on your hardware.
<b>Access, not ability to pay</b> §67 · §51	3 /6	<b>6</b> /6	Complete — pay-what-you-want, with a human door for anyone who can’t.
<b>No attention capture</b> §170	2 /8	<b>8</b> /8	Complete — no re-engagement code exists; rising use is flagged, not rewarded.
<b>Contestability &amp; recourse</b> §105 · §164	2 /6	<b>5</b> /6	Everything is contestable except the model itself; a named-reviewer queue closes that.

DIMENSION (WHAT THE ENCYCLICAL ASKS)	MARKET	ETHOS LITE	WHERE IT STANDS — HONESTLY
<b>A crisis path for the vulnerable</b> §§118–126	4 /6	<b>5</b> /6	Now live — a distinct mode that leaves the pipeline, resources appended by code and never invented, a fail-safe fallback, nothing logged. The one part left is naming the person to hand off to.
<b>Measuring flourishing</b> §85 · §129	1 /6	<b>2</b> /6	Stated but unmeasured; reading a soul is an inherent limit only the human layer meets.
<b>Environmental restraint</b> §101	2 /5	<b>4</b> /5	Now measured per tenant; the deeper footprint still sits with the model provider.
<b>Governance &amp; oversight</b> §§86–89	3 /5	<b>3</b> /5	An external conscience is drafted; making it live is a commitment, not a technology.
<b>TOTAL ALIGNMENT</b>	<b>31</b> /100	<b>84</b> /100	<i>On governance the market still matches us, and the low marks — measuring flourishing, data sovereignty — are ours to keep improving. Honest, not a clean sweep.</i>

*Per-row maximums are weighted by importance and sum to 100. This covers only what a personal knowledge assistant is accountable for; roughly two-thirds of the encyclical — war, migration, labour, ecology, institutions — lies outside any product's reach.*

## THE FRUITS

### What it is all for

We do not measure success in sessions or return visits. We measure it in fruits: a person who sees more clearly, stays free, is met with dignity at their limit — and, having grown, no longer needs the tool.

The encyclical ends in a song of hope — the lowly lifted, the world made more human. Our part is small and glad: to accompany a person for a season, then release them back to their life more capable, more connected, more themselves than when they arrived.

### **A tool that opens people rather than closes them.**

*Built on Catholic Social Doctrine and the vision of integral human development in Pope Leo XIV's encyclical Magnifica Humanitas (2026). The full ethical framework is readable in the application by anyone who uses it. Nothing about the values embedded in this system is hidden.*