Holistic Catholic Education:
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CHAPTER XIX
Catholic Character Education in The Post-Truth Era

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Abstract

This study explores the importance and practical application of Catholic character education in addressing the challenges of the post-truth era when facts often take a backseat to subjective opinions and emotional narratives. The research stems from growing concerns about the spread of disinformation and moral relativism, which blur the lines of objective truth and influence the character development of younger generations. Using literature analysis and observations in Catholic schools, the study focuses on how moral and spiritual values are woven into the curriculum, extracurricular activities, and community life. The findings highlight that Catholic character education, rooted in values such as love, honesty, responsibility, and peace, effectively nurtures individuals with integrity and the ability to think critically in today's moral challenges. The collaboration between families, schools, and communities emerges as a key factor in its success. Moreover, the thoughtful use of digital technology can further support teaching moral values. The study calls for a holistic and creative approach to Catholic character education aimed at shaping a generation that is morally strong and ready to navigate the complexities of the post-truth world.

Keywords: *Catholic character education, post-truth era, moral values.*

Introduction

In the post-truth era, a significant challenge has emerged amidst the rapid advancement of information technology, where personal opinions and beliefs often carry more weight than objective facts. This phenomenon has transformed how we interact with the world, including how we perceive and define truth. In this context, character education has become increasingly vital, particularly education grounded in religious and moral values. Catholic character education, which emphasizes love, honesty, and justice, serves as an

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effort to restore moral orientation in the face of the tendencies of this post-truth era. (Fajarianto et al., 2023).

Empirical phenomena associated with the post-truth era reveal that many individuals and groups are more inclined to trust information that aligns with their personal views, even if it lacks clear evidence. For instance, the spread of hoaxes and disinformation has influenced public opinion, and there is growing difficulty in distinguishing facts from opinions in public discourse. In today's fast-paced world, misinformation can quickly spread, obscuring society's understanding of objective truth. This phenomenon inevitably impacts moral development and character formation, particularly for younger generations, who are still shaping their values.

Catholic character education is expected to provide an alternative for building a strong character rooted in enduring moral principles. Key concepts in Catholic character education, such as love, honesty, responsibility, and peace, serve as essential foundations for teaching individuals to behave according to the teachings of the Gospel. In addressing the challenges of the post-truth era, Catholic character education aims to help students develop critical thinking skills, respect for truth, and the ability to act with integrity, even in a world often clouded by deception and manipulation (Yusnan, 2022).

Efforts to strengthen character education in Catholic schools have been ongoing, with a strong focus on developing curricula prioritizing moral and spiritual values. Many Catholic schools have implemented specialized programs designed to instill strong character in students, grounded in the teachings of the Church. However, a significant challenge remains: ensuring that Catholic character education stays relevant in today's ever-changing social and cultural landscape, where moral relativism and self-interest often overshadow the common good (Daniel & Narvaez, 2005).

Addressing these challenges requires attention in several key areas. First, it is essential to find ways to help students integrate Catholic character education into their daily lives, allowing them to embody these values genuinely. Second, involving families and communities in the educational process is crucial so that character education extends beyond the classroom. Third, teaching methods must go beyond theory, incorporating hands-on experiences that profoundly shape students' character.

Catholic character education has the potential to offer solutions to the moral crisis of the post-truth era. This study explores how Catholic character

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education can be strengthened to meet these challenges and identify innovative approaches that Catholic schools can adopt. The hope is that this research will contribute meaningfully to developing curricula and strategies that effectively nurture students with strong character rooted in Catholic values, equipping them to navigate the increasingly complex realities of today's world.

Literatur Review

Ethics Through the Lens of Catholic Social Teaching

The Catholic Church conveys its ethical principles through Catholic Social Teaching, a strong foundation for character education within the faith. This teaching underscores the significance of values such as truth, justice, solidarity, and human dignity—universal principles that resonate not only in religious life but also in the broader social sphere. At the heart of these values lies the essence of Christian teaching: a profound love for God and for others. Foundational texts like *Gaudium et Spes*, *Evangelii Gaudium*, and *Laudato Si'* offer moral direction for leading a life that aligns with Catholic values.

Truth is one of the central themes of Catholic Social Teaching. It is more than a mere intellectual concept. It is a guiding principle for authentic living aligning with God's will and one's relationships with others. In *Gaudium et Spes*, the Church affirms that the dignity of humanity can only be fully realized through divine truth. This emphasis on truth is significant in today's post-truth era, where relativism often blurs the lines of moral objectivity (Schuttloffel, 2012).

Justice, too, is a cornerstone of Catholic ethics. It goes beyond equality to encompass giving each person their due based on their inherent worth as individuals made in God's image. Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that every educational effort must champion social justice, ensuring fair treatment and opportunities for all students, regardless of their background. This commitment to justice seeks to address and rectify systemic inequities within education.

Solidarity, unity, and shared responsibility are other fundamental values in Catholic character education. Pope Francis, in *Evangelii Gaudium*, highlights solidarity as a tangible expression of love, particularly for those who are marginalized. In practice, this value inspires the creation of inclusive and supportive school environments where every student is valued, encouraged, and empowered to reach their full potential (Schuttloffel, 2012).

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At the core of Catholic Social Teaching is the affirmation of human dignity. This foundational belief, rooted in the idea that everyone is created in God's image, calls for respect and recognition of each individual's intrinsic worth, irrespective of their achievements or social standing. In Catholic character education, this principle translates into nurturing students' awareness of their unique value and encouraging them to live out their divine purpose daily.

In essence, Catholic Social Teaching provides a relevant and robust framework for navigating the challenges of the post-truth era. By embedding the values of truth, justice, solidarity, and human dignity, Catholic character education equips individuals with the moral clarity needed to counter the disorientation and relativism often seen in today's world. More than just a means of transmitting knowledge, education becomes a transformative process that shapes individuals to live fully in alignment with God's vision for humanity (Rossiter, 2003).

Post-Truth Theory and Relativism

The post-truth era describes a time when personal opinions and emotions often precede objective facts in decision-making. In this age, emotional narratives are frequently more compelling than complex data, leading to a decline in trust in traditional authorities like science, religion, and educational institutions. Catholic character education has an important role to play here, offering absolute values like truth, love, and integrity as remedies to the growing confusion about what is truly important (Rahmatullah et al., 2022).

Alongside the post-truth era, moral relativism has gained ground. It rejects the idea of objective truth and claims that all moral views are equally valid. This view leads to ethical confusion, where truth becomes subjective and is often shaped by personal or group interests. In his encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, Pope John Paul II emphasized that universal and unchanging moral truths should guide human life. Catholic character education, grounded in the teachings of Christ, stands in contrast to moral relativism by emphasizing absolute truths.

Catholic character education offers a solution to the challenges of the post-truth era and moral relativism by nurturing critical thinking skills in students. By weaving Catholic values into everyday learning, students are taught to distinguish between facts and opinions and reflect on their decisions' moral impact. This approach helps them live by the truth and build personal integrity.

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In a time when misinformation and opinion manipulation are widespread, this education has become increasingly vital (Haidt, 2007).

Moreover, Catholic character education stresses the importance of love as the core of ethical behavior. Christian love is not just about respecting human dignity but also about fostering honest, open dialogue. In an era marked by division and conflict, love becomes a powerful tool for building relationships based on mutual respect and support. This makes Catholic character education morally relevant and crucial in promoting social harmony.

Ultimately, Post-Truth Theory and Relativism underscore character education's challenges today. However, through values like truth, love, and integrity, Catholic character education offers a clear path forward, helping to navigate the moral uncertainty and information overload we face. This approach reminds us that truth is more than just a concept; it is a calling to live according to God's will and work towards a more just and loving world.

Character Education Theory

The Value Education Theory underscores the importance of instilling moral and ethical values into students' characters through direct learning and real-life experiences. *Educating for Character* emphasizes that character education must involve three essential aspects: moral knowing, moral feeling, and moral action. In Catholic education, love, forgiveness, and service form the heart of this learning process. These values not only help students grasp moral principles but also guide them in applying those principles in their everyday lives, especially in the face of the challenges posed by a post-truth era dominated by moral relativism. (Yusnan, 2022).

Holistic Education offers a perspective that sees education as a comprehensive process of developing human beings' intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual aspects. Holistic education imparts knowledge and fosters meaningful connections between students and their world. In Catholic education, this holistic approach translates into developing a well-rounded character in students, enabling them to navigate the value confusion prevalent in the post-truth era. By blending intellectual teachings with spiritual guidance, holistic education helps students become balanced individuals with strong moral foundations. (Abdussalam et al., 2024).

Catholic character education is especially relevant in tackling the challenges of the post-truth era, as it combines values-based and holistic approaches to

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support students' overall growth. In a world often filled with manipulative information and overwhelming emotions, Catholic character education encourages students to think critically, reflect on their actions, and evaluate their decisions based on universal moral principles. This approach empowers students to distinguish between facts and opinions and nurtures empathy and solidarity with others (Abdul Haq et al., 2022).

Ultimately, character education theory—whether focused on values or holistic development—places moral and spiritual values at the heart of the learning process. In Catholic education, this approach prepares students to face the challenges of the post-truth world with strong moral awareness, critical thinking skills, and a commitment to living according to God's will. Catholic character education, therefore, serves as a vital foundation in shaping a generation capable of driving positive change in society, especially during these uncertain times.

Moral Psychology Theory

Kohlberg's *Theory of Moral Development* (1981), as discussed in *The Philosophy of Moral Development*, outlines six stages of moral development, beginning with an orientation toward obedience and punishment (the pre-conventional level) and culminating in the pursuit of universal ethical principles (the post-conventional level) (Daniel & Narvaez, 2005)This theory provides valuable insight into how students can grow in their moral understanding in the context of Catholic education. Catholic character education aims to guide students to follow rules and internalize values such as love, justice, and truth, which serve as the foundation for their actions.

Catholic character education plays a significant role in helping students reach Kohlberg's highest stage of moral development, which is the stage of universal ethical principles. This stage is characterized by the ability to make moral decisions based on universal principles that are not influenced by social norms. In Catholic education, values like love, forgiveness, and divine justice provide a firm moral compass. The goal is not just for students to do good out of obligation but to cultivate a deep awareness of God's will and the inherent dignity of each person.

The *Moral Intelligence Theory*, introduced by Lennick and Kiel (2005) in *Moral Intelligence*, emphasizes the importance of being able to discern right from wrong based on strong moral principles.

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(Daniel & Narvaez, 2005). In the post-truth era, where misinformation and manipulation are widespread, moral intelligence becomes even more crucial. In Catholic character education, moral intelligence is nurtured through moral reflection, value-centered dialogue, and experiential learning. This helps students develop a deep moral sensitivity, especially in complex situations (Clarken, Rodney H. Intelligence, 2009).

By integrating Kohlberg's theory of moral development with the concept of moral intelligence, Catholic character education offers a comprehensive approach to shaping students' personalities. By understanding the stages of moral development and fostering moral intelligence through Catholic principles, students commit to truth and act according to those values. This approach empowers Catholic education to tackle the challenges of the post-truth era, preparing students to be critical thinkers with integrity and moral responsibility.

Media Literacy Theory

Media literacy's importance has grown significantly in the post-truth era, where emotions and opinions often precede objective facts. In Catholic education, media literacy can be aligned with honesty, justice, and truth. Students are taught to verify information and evaluate it through the lens of universal ethical principles. In this way, media literacy rooted in Catholic values goes beyond just cognitive skills—it is about fostering a deeper moral awareness when navigating complex information. (Rahmatullah et al., 2022).

Integrating media literacy theory into Catholic character education can be achieved through digital literacy training guided by Catholic ethics. This training can include lessons on assessing information sources, recognizing media manipulation, and using technology responsibly. Students are also encouraged to reflect on how the information they consume and share aligns with Christian values. In this sense, media literacy becomes a technical skill and a way to nurture a character that embodies love and truth.

By incorporating media literacy into Catholic character education, students are better equipped to become thoughtful, ethical, and responsible individuals in today's digital world. They develop the ability to identify and combat misinformation and contribute to creating a healthier, values-driven media environment. This approach is one of the ways to tackle the challenges of the post-truth era, where combining media literacy with character education helps

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the younger generation navigate the complexities of information with a strong moral foundation.

Methode

This study takes a qualitative approach, using library research to explore Catholic character education in the Post-Truth era. The data comes from various sources, such as books on Catholic character education, scholarly journal articles, and previous studies. The analysis focuses on character education, ethics, morality, and creative strategies for fostering Catholic values. The process involves gathering relevant literature, identifying key concepts, analyzing connections, synthesizing findings, and drawing meaningful conclusions. The research is carefully organized, starting with an introduction and culminating in practical approaches to support Catholic character education in the post-Truth era.

Discussion

The Context of the Post-Truth Era

In the post-truth era, personal opinions, beliefs, and emotions increasingly overshadow objective truth. Information based on facts often takes a backseat to narratives that better align with the interests and feelings of individuals or groups. This situation is worsened by the rapid growth of digital technology, which enables information to spread quickly, often without checking its accuracy. Opinions and emotions are more readily shared and accepted online than accountable facts.

The effects of the post-truth era are profound, both socially and morally. People are more inclined to trust information that aligns with their personal views or interests, even if it lacks clear evidence or facts. As a result, the concept of truth becomes more fluid and is shaped by individual preferences, group beliefs, or ideologies. This creates a disconnect between objective facts and the subjective beliefs many people accept as truth, influencing how society thinks and acts in everyday life. (Rahmatullah et al., 2022).

The post-truth era also affects the way we form moral judgments. When objective truth is no longer the guiding principle, moral relativism often replaces moral values that should be based on truth and justice. The belief that everyone is entitled to their version of the truth can shift societal values. As a

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result, truth, which should be the foundation of social norms and ethics, begins to be questioned or disregarded in favor of personal convenience and interests.

Furthermore, the post-truth era encourages a culture where emotions and personal beliefs are valued more than rational thought. People tend to listen to what they want to hear and avoid information that challenges their views. This makes rational conversations and fact-based discussions harder, leading to greater polarization between groups or individuals. Society is increasingly divided due to political differences and because people interpret the truth in vastly different ways (Suryanto et al., 2023).

As a result, the post-truth era also contributes to a decline in the quality of education and the public's ability to process information critically. Education, which should focus on teaching analytical thinking and evidence-based reasoning, is sometimes overshadowed by approaches prioritizing sensationalism or popular opinion. Therefore, it is crucial to explore new teaching methods that center around the pursuit of objective truth while encouraging individuals and communities to critically evaluate the information they encounter.

Moral Challenges in the Post-Truth Era

In the post-truth era, one of the biggest obstacles to building moral character is the tendency to prioritize personal or group interests over factual truth. With the overwhelming amount of information available today, much of it distorted or even false, it has become harder for people to differentiate between information backed by objective evidence and narratives shaped by specific agendas. The rapid spread of hoaxes and misinformation, mainly through social media and other digital platforms, makes this even worse, confusing what is right and wrong. (Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020).

A key effect of this issue is the decline in our ability to think critically and analyze information logically. When objective facts are no longer the guiding standard, many individuals accept information that aligns with their beliefs or preferences, regardless of whether it is truthful. This worsens social polarization, as different groups are more likely to believe narratives that support their views, even if those narratives are not based on reliable facts. In this environment, fostering moral character rooted in universal principles like honesty, justice, and kindness becomes increasingly challenging.

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Misformation and hoaxes have also given rise to moral relativism, the idea that moral values are subjective and vary depending on individual or group perspectives. When truth becomes relative, moral norms underpinning a harmonious society are increasingly questioned. This relativism can lead to a lack of concern for objective truth and make it easier to justify unethical behavior. People or groups may find it easier to defend actions that harm others if those actions fit with their personal beliefs or interests.

As society becomes more shaped by narratives disconnected from reality, core moral values like the common good, social responsibility, and justice become harder to uphold. Individuals increasingly feel less responsible for their actions toward others or society, believing that truth and morality are relative and based on personal perception. This leads to weaker social bonds and a growing inability to foster an environment conducive to mutual progress. (Haidt, 2007).

Character education grounded in universal values is crucial to confront these moral challenges. Education that goes beyond simply teaching facts and instead encourages critical thinking, helping individuals assess information for truthfulness, becomes vital. Moreover, character education emphasizing integrity, honesty, and social responsibility can nurture a society more attuned to the importance of truth and morality in daily life. Society risks more significant division and injustice without a more substantial commitment to addressing these moral dilemmas.

The Importance of Catholic Character Education

Catholic character education is firmly rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church, emphasizing the importance of moral and spiritual values in shaping individuals with integrity. One of the core principles of Catholic character education is love, which serves as the foundation for all moral teachings in the Catholic faith. Love is not just a positive feeling towards others, but also involves actions that reflect care, sacrifice, and a commitment to the common good. In today's post-truth world, where truth is often overlooked, love becomes essential in building honest and empathetic relationships and creating a more caring and responsible society. (Schuttloffel, 2012).

The second concept in Catholic character education is honesty. In Catholic teachings, honesty means more than just speaking the truth; it involves integrity in all actions. In a post-truth era, where many individuals manipulate facts for personal or group interests, Catholic education stresses that truth

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should be valued and upheld, even if it is not always popular or easy. Honesty teaches individuals to be open and truthful in every aspect of their lives, never concealing information or distorting reality.

Another crucial concept is responsibility, which in Catholic terms means being fully aware of one's moral obligations to oneself, others, and society. It also involves a commitment to act wisely and thoughtfully, considering how one's actions impact others. In a fragmented world where truth is often neglected, Catholic character education teaches that everyone must be accountable for their words and actions while striving to protect the common good in society.

The fourth key idea is peace. From a Catholic perspective, true peace is not simply about avoiding conflict; it involves active efforts to promote social justice, reconcile differences, and build harmonious relationships in a diverse world. In a time when tensions and divisions are common, Catholic teachings remind us that peace can only be achieved when each person respects the truth, lives justly, and commits to resolving differences peacefully and respectfully, recognizing the dignity of every human being.

Catholic character education is not just theoretical; it is meant to be practical. The values taught must be lived out in everyday actions. In Catholic schools, for example, character education is implemented through activities encouraging students to serve others, engage in social initiatives, and participate in projects emphasizing social responsibility. The goal is to shape students' attitudes and behaviors according to Catholic teachings so that they grow into individuals who possess knowledge and strong character rooted in the common good. (Rossiter, 2003).

Additionally, Catholic character education highlights the importance of spiritual life in developing a well-rounded character. Catholic teachings emphasize that a relationship with God provides the foundation for a meaningful and purposeful life through prayer, sacraments, and church life. Catholic character education sees moral development as intertwined with spiritual growth. This approach shapes socially responsible individuals and those with deep spiritual insight, influencing how they interact with the world and face moral challenges.

In the post-truth era, where information often spreads without precise verification, Catholic character education also underscores the importance of seeking the truth. This education encourages individuals to pursue truth through

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intellectual inquiry and personal reflection. Catholic teachings urge believers not to accept information passively but to dig deeper, distinguishing between true and false. This is especially important to combat negative societal influences, where opinions often carry more weight than objective facts.

Finally, Catholic character education emphasizes integrating moral values into everyday life. The aim is for students to understand concepts like love, honesty, responsibility, and peace and apply them in their lives outside school. This requires Catholic schools to create an environment that fosters comprehensive character development, where these values are embedded in the school culture and community life. Through this approach, Catholic character education seeks to shape a knowledgeable and strong generation ready to face the moral challenges of the post-truth world with integrity and love. (Elbes & Oktaviani, 2022).

The Role of Catholic Education in Building Character in Schools

Catholic schools have always played an essential role in shaping students' moral character by integrating Catholic values into their curriculum and daily lives. Character education in Catholic schools is not just about academics; it is about fostering personal strength rooted in the teachings of the Church. The foundation of this approach starts with introducing core Catholic values such as love, honesty, and responsibility. These values are not just taught in religious classes but are woven into every aspect of school life, from how students interact with each other to their relationships with teachers and staff. (Rossiter, 2003).

One key way Catholic schools integrate character education is by teaching moral values throughout the curriculum. Religious studies classes serve as a starting point for exploring Gospel principles like the importance of love, respecting human dignity, and being responsible toward others. However, these values do not stop there. Catholic schools often incorporate them into other subjects like science, language, and history, showing students how Catholic values apply to everyday life. This approach helps students see the practical connection between their faith and the world around them.

Beyond the classroom, extracurricular activities play a significant role in character development at Catholic schools. Activities like community service, helping others, and even sports are all used to teach values such as teamwork, responsibility, and caring for others. Through these experiences, students learn

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about Catholic values in theory and have the chance to put those values into practice in real-world situations. These activities provide a meaningful space for students to develop their moral character in a relaxed but impactful environment (Mua et al., 2024).

Spiritual growth is also a vital part of Catholic character education. Catholic schools are not just about teaching right from wrong—they also focus on nurturing students' spiritual lives. Through communal prayer, retreats, and participation in the sacraments, students can deepen their faith, strengthen their relationship with God, and understand how their beliefs can guide them through life's challenges. This spiritual development is not just about morality. It helps students build inner peace and spiritual maturity, which are key to their character growth.

Ultimately, Catholic character education seeks to create a supportive environment that fosters moral and spiritual growth. By integrating Catholic values into the curriculum, extracurricular activities, and spiritual life, Catholic schools are not just preparing students for academic success but also helping them build strong, compassionate character. In a constantly changing world, this kind of education is a potent tool for shaping a generation that is not only smart but also morally grounded, responsible, and caring for the well-being of others.

The Role of Family and Community in Catholic Character Education

Catholic character education is deeply intertwined with the involvement of families and communities. As the core unit of society, the family is primarily responsible for instilling moral values in children from an early age. In Catholic teaching, the family is often called the "domestic church," where children learn about love, honesty, and responsibility. The example set by parents in their daily lives profoundly impacts shaping a child's moral character, as children learn by observing what they see at home. This makes parents' involvement in supporting education rooted in Catholic values essential. (Paulus, 2012).

Alongside the family, the wider community plays an equally important role. Catholic communities, including churches, social organizations, and other faith-based groups, provide valuable spaces for supporting character education. The Church, through pastoral and liturgical activities, imparts moral teachings that help deepen a child's understanding of Catholic principles. In the same way, social groups involved in community service or outreach work teach

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values such as care, solidarity, and selflessness. Engaging in these community-based activities encourages children to practice these moral principles daily, contributing to developing a more well-rounded moral character.

The involvement of both families and communities helps bridge the gap between the values students learn at school and what they experience in their daily social lives. In today's world, external influences can sometimes clash with Catholic moral teachings, such as materialism, moral relativism, and individualism. However, with strong support from family and community, students are better equipped to internalize the Catholic values taught at school and use them as a compass when navigating life's challenges. Close collaboration between the family, school, and community is vital in developing a strong moral character rooted in Catholic ethics. (Stuhls, 2013).

In conclusion, Catholic character education involving families and communities is about creating good individuals and building a social environment where strong moral values can flourish. By fostering deeper connections and collaboration among these three key pillars, students receive an academic education and a holistic character formation that prepares them to become responsible, virtuous, and compassionate individuals. In this way, Catholic character education plays a key role in shaping an intellectually sharp and morally and spiritually mature generation. (Schuttloffel, 2012).

Innovative Approaches to Catholic Character Education in the Digital Age

The rise of digital technology presents challenges and exciting opportunities for Catholic character education. On the one hand, digital media and online resources offer a variety of ways to enrich the teaching of Catholic values. On the other hand, the digital world also brings risks, such as exposure to unverified information, the negative influence of social media, and reduced meaningful social interaction. To address these challenges, it is essential to develop innovative approaches that harness technology wisely to support the teaching of Catholic values without compromising students' moral integrity.

A significant challenge in Catholic character education today is the abundance of information online, which is not always reliable or healthy. Many of the contents on the internet, particularly on social media, can contradict Catholic teachings, such as moral relativism or materialistic views. That is why Catholic educators must teach students how to filter information, think critically, and use technology to seek the truth. Teaching digital literacy is

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becoming more important so students can use technology responsibly and wisely. (Rahmatullah et al., 2022).

Conversely, digital media can also be a potent tool to support Catholic character education, provided it is used wisely. Online platforms, videos, and faith-based apps can introduce Catholic values in engaging and interactive ways. For example, videos featuring inspiring stories from the lives of saints or Catholic moral teachings can serve as accessible learning tools for students. Likewise, apps supporting spiritual practices, such as Scripture reading or meditation, can help students grow in their faith outside school hours.

However, using technology requires thoughtful guidance to ensure students find a healthy balance between the digital world and real life. Catholic character education needs to teach universal values like love, honesty, and responsibility—important both online and offline. Teachers and parents must collaborate to ensure children learn how to use technology and use it for positive, meaningful purposes, like engaging in social action, growing in faith, or sharing kindness. (González-pérez & Ramírez-montoya, 2022).

An innovative approach to Catholic character education might also include project-based digital learning, where students participate in activities that integrate Catholic values. For instance, students could be tasked with creating a social media campaign to promote Catholic values like peace, justice, or solidarity. In doing so, they learn about moral values and practice them in ways that resonate with today's world. This kind of approach gives students the chance to blend their technology skills with a strong moral foundation.

To ensure Catholic character education remains effective in the digital age, it is important to maintain a balanced oversight of students' use of technology. Teachers, parents, and schools should work together to monitor students' interactions with the digital world. They must set clear guidelines for digital media use and ensure students avoid falling into negative online influences. At the same time, it is important to create opportunities for students to build social and empathetic skills through face-to-face interactions so that technology does not replace real human connections. (Rusilowati & Wahyudi, 2020).

By integrating technology with Catholic values, Catholic character education in the digital age can be a powerful way to shape a generation that is not only digitally literate but also morally grounded. Through thoughtful use of digital media and collaboration between schools, families, and communities,

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Catholic education can adapt to the times and continue positively impacting students' moral and spiritual development.

Conclusion

The post-truth era brings about significant challenges in upholding objective truth as a foundation for our moral and social lives. In this age, truth often gets overshadowed by opinions, emotions, or narratives that benefit particular groups, making it harder to distinguish between facts and personal viewpoints. The rapid spread of information through digital technology is not always accurate; it only deepens social divides and weakens our ability to think critically. This situation has given rise to moral relativism, where ethical values become flexible and shaped to fit personal or group interests.

In response to these challenges, education rooted in universal values becomes increasingly important. Catholic character education, for instance, offers a holistic approach grounded in love, honesty, responsibility, and peace. These values provide a strong moral compass in a world where relativism and misinformation seem to dominate. By focusing on integrity and a deep respect for truth, Catholic character education aims to cultivate individuals who are not only intellectually capable but also morally and spiritually grounded.

Catholic character education goes beyond the classroom by weaving these values into the curriculum, extracurricular activities, and spiritual development. Through experiences like social service, group prayer, and spiritual reflection, students learn to understand moral principles and live them out daily. This well-rounded approach nurtures character development, connecting religious teachings with tangible actions that positively impact the community. This education helps students understand the importance of living with truth and compassion in a world of challenges.

Moreover, collaboration between families, schools, and the community fosters character development. As the first teachers, families set the example by offering moral guidance. At the same time, the wider community and church groups provide additional support, creating spaces for activities that reinforce social and spiritual values. This partnership builds a holistic educational environment where children are encouraged to internalize Catholic values in all areas of their lives.

In the digital age, Catholic character education must adapt, using technology thoughtfully to teach moral values. Critical digital literacy is key so

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students can navigate the vast flow of information and discern what is truthful and beneficial. Digital media can also enhance learning through faith-based apps or engaging educational content. With these innovative approaches, Catholic character education can serve as a powerful tool in addressing the moral challenges of the post-truth era, helping to shape a generation that is not only intelligent but also compassionate and grounded in integrity.

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