



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 5 Vol. 1 | September 2, 2024 | Student Edition

### BLESSED MARY ANGELA SAYS: (Foundress of the Felician Sisters)

*“Practice love of neighbor by being amiable and in general doing good to others.”*

### CATHOLIC Q&A

What Catholics believe about everything, in 10 minutes!

Click [here](#) for the answer

### INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

- 9/01: Religious year begins - *Orthodox Christians*
- 9/06: Ganeth Chaturhi: *Hinduism*
- 9/08: Nativity of Virgin Mary - *Christian*
- 9/14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross - *Christian*
- 9/15: Birth of Muhammad - *Islam*
- 9/22: Ostara/Mabon - *Neo-Pagan*
- 9/29: Feast of St. Michael the Arch Angel - *Christian*



## Campus Ministry Events for September

CAMPUS MINISTRY IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM!  
COME FOLLOW US! ALL ARE WELCOME!

<https://www.instagram.com/villamariacampusministry/>

**Friday, September 6:** Service trip to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy 9 am - 12:30 pm. Sign up sheet can be found posted outside the VP for Mission office off the lobby of the Main Building across from the M & T Conference Room. Can only take a limited number of students.

**Tuesday, September 10, 17, 24:** Weekly Bible Study begins at 11:15 am in Campus Ministry Office. Open to students and staff. No prior Bible knowledge needed. Come as often as you can!

**Wednesday, September 11:** Interfaith Peace Prayer Service at 11:15 am in front of outside staircase of Main Building (or in the lobby if it rains)

**Thursday, September 12:** Mass of the Holy Spirit to begin the new semester at 11:15 am in college chapel.

**Friday, September 20:** Service trip to Little Portion Friary Homeless Shelter 9 am - 12:00 pm. Sign up sheet can be found posted outside the VP for Mission office off the lobby of the Main Building across from the M & T Conference Room. Can only take a limited number of students.

**Friday, September 27 Free Field Trip to Our Lady of Victory Basilica in Lackawanna:** Free lunch at the Campus Ministry Office at Noon then off to the Basilica to experience this beautiful church. Sign up sheet can be found posted outside the VP for Mission office off the lobby of the Main Building across from the M & T Conference Room. Can only take a limited number of students.

**BLOOD DRIVE ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30. ALL TYPES WELCOME 9 AM TO 1PM**

## 8 Tips to Start the School Year Off Right

Getting back into the classroom after a break—no matter how long—can be tricky. Settling into a good routine right from the start, while maintaining a healthy balance between work, school, and life, can be the key to success.

### 1. Find Your Study Zone

Find a place with limited distractions and noise levels conducive to concentration, like a quiet corner in your home or a local library.

### 2. Train Your Brain

Your brain is just like any other muscle in your body. You can also keep your mind in shape with mental puzzles and games. Tackle the daily crossword or Sudoku puzzle.

### 3. Get—and Stay—Organized

Get organized right from the start by getting in the habit of writing down all your assignments, upcoming deadlines, and important dates in one easy-to-see, easy-to-use place.

### 4. Connect With Your Classmates

You're all in this together. Study groups can be a great way to explore challenging course concepts.

### 5. Get By With a Little Help From Your Friends

... and family, coworkers, and neighbors. Set expectations for your availability during the semester and see if they can offer support.

### 6. Know Your Resources

Your school has great resources to help support you too! Many programs have tutors and specialized support centers to help you start and finish that paper.

### 7. Make a Plan for Balancing Work, School, and Life

Talk to your employer, family members, and friends about your responsibilities going back to school so everyone understands that your time will be divided temporarily.

### 8. Don't Wait to Ask Questions

Get ahead of potential problems and issues by asking questions right away.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

## OUR CORE VALUES

*Respect for Human Dignity*



*Compassion*



**SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE IN NEED**



*Transformation*



*Justice and Peace*

2024-2025 Focus

## Solidarity With People in Need

### Learning About Diversity through Catholic Social Justice teachings

#### INTRODUCTION:

Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. Its roots are in the Hebrew prophets who announced God's special love for the poor and called God's people to a covenant of love and justice. It is a teaching founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ, who came "to bring glad tidings to the poor . . . liberty to captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind" (Lk 4:18-19), and who identified himself with "the least of these," the hungry and the stranger (cf. Mt 25:45). Catholic social teaching is built on a commitment to the poor. This commitment arises from our experiences of Christ in the eucharist. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren."

Catholic social teaching is based on and inseparable from our understanding of human life and human dignity. Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family. Every person, from the moment of conception to natural death, has inherent dignity and a right to life consistent with that dignity. Human dignity comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment.

Future edition of Mission Matters Monthly will explore each of the themes below in more detail. Click [here](#) to learn more.



## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.

Click [here](#) to learn more



Our new college mission statement:

Villa Maria College is a Catholic, Franciscan college, founded by the Felician Sisters, using innovative strategies to educate and empower a diverse student body to positively impact their communities.

#### CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



[www.villa.edu](http://www.villa.edu)

#### STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER:

Alissa Kowalski,  
Director of Student Success  
[studentsuccess@villa.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@villa.edu)  
716-961-1832

#### THE CARE CENTER:

Kasha LeBron,  
Director of the Care Center  
[counseling@villa.edu](mailto:counseling@villa.edu)  
716-961-1821

#### SISTER MARY JOSETTE FOOD PANTRY:

Miranda Pinelli,  
Food Pantry Supervisor  
716-961-2860



Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry

240 Pine Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14225