



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 5 Vol. 5 | January 6, 2025 | Staff/BOT Edition

### Blessed Mary Angela Says: (Foundress of the Felician Sisters)

"Always avoid haste in every activity by performing all works with attention, precision and concentration; do not shorten but rather devote the allotted time to every prescribed responsibility."

### CATHOLIC Q&A

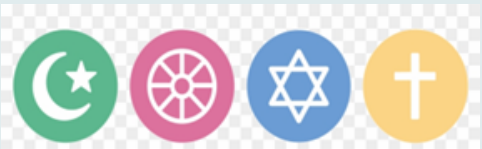
Are "all religions equal"?

Click [here](#) for the answer

### INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

- 01/01: Chanukah - *Judaism*
- 01/01: Shogatsu/Gantan-sai (New Year) - *Shinto*
- 01/01: Mary, Mother of God - *Christian*
- 01/06: Epiphany - *Christian*
- 01/07: Feast of the Nativity - *Orthodox Christian*
- 01/08: Feast of the Holy Family - *Christian*
- 01/12: Swami Vivekananda Jayanti - *Hindu*
- 01/13: Lohri - *Hindu*
- 01/14: Mahayana New Year - *Buddhist*
- 01/14: Makar Sankranti - *Hindu*
- 01/18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



### Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

By Fr. James Loughran, SA

The prayers, reflections and theme for the 2025 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, "Do you believe" (John 11:26), were developed by the ecumenical monastic community of Bose in northern Italy. The theme and texts were the result of meetings at Bose with representatives of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Holy See's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity in the autumn of 2023.

In 2025, the whole Church commemorates the 1,700th anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council of the entire church at that time, called by the Emperor Constantine at Nicaea (presently in the country of Turkey) in the early summer of 325. Aside from important disciplinary agreements, such as a common date for Easter, the Council discussed and debated orthodoxy of doctrine, especially about what Christians believe about the nature of God as Trinity and the two natures, human and divine, of Jesus Christ. The result was a agreed upon Creed, what we today call the Nicene Creed.

This theme, by offering a way to see that faith is not just a static set of beliefs, but an active means of receiving grace, is most appropriate for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2025. Remembering that division, separation and rejection are symptoms of sin, the healing of the Church comes about in the power of the Holy Spirit. God wills us to reconcile. God wills us to love one another. God will give those who profess the faith of Martha, of Nicaea and of all the holy ones who have gone before us, the precious gift of unity.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

**PLEASE JOIN THE VILLA COMMUNITY AS WE HOLD A PRAYER SERVICE TO COMEMORATE THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 23 AT 11:15 AM IN THE LOBBY OF THE MAIN BUILDING**

### The High Call of our Daily Work

by Mark D. Roberts

[The High Calling of our Daily Work](#) website seeks to encourage ordinary people to see their work as central to God's call upon their lives. In many church settings, ordained ministers are said to have "a call," while regular folks do not. This misses the biblical teaching on calling by a long shot. Indeed, Scripture makes it clear that all Christians are called by God into His service. For a few this "ministry" happens in the context of pastoral ministry in a church; for most this "ministry" occurs out in the world, including our workplaces. The High Calling of our Daily Work includes lots of resources to teach and encourage you in your everyday service to Christ. There are interviews, Bible studies, and personal stories.

I'll be writing what is called the Daily Reflection. You can find my Daily Reflections at the main page of The High Calling. Just look for the Daily Reflection link. But there's an added bonus for you in my joining up with The High Calling. If you wish, you can become a member of The High Calling (no cost, no spam, no hassle). Then you can opt to have my Daily Reflection sent to you as an e-mail.

So, please visit The High Calling and check out the Daily Reflection. While you're there, I'd urge you to look at some of what The High Calling has to offer besides the Reflection. There is a lot of great material on this website.

Happy New Year!



## 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

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

### Theme #4: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. Click [here](#) to learn more. To be continued...



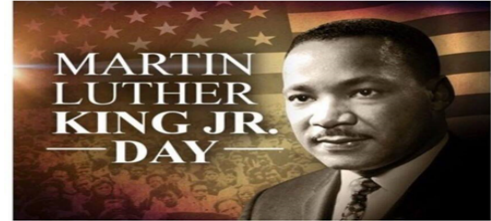
CAMPUS MINISTRY IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM! COME FOLLOW US! ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

JOIN US FOR **BIBLE STUDY** IN CAMPUS MINISTRY, JANUARY 28  
@11:15 AM IN THE CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE.  
OPEN TO STUDENTS AND STAFF

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 2025

On Monday, January 20th our nation celebrates the life and teachings of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Click [here](#) to learn more about this amazing man.



## NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 25- FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Catholic School statistics in the United States for the 2022-2023 school year are as follows:

- \*There are 5,905 Pre-K-12 Catholic schools operating today
- \*Total enrollment in Catholic schools is 1,693,327
- \*Located in Urban areas: 38%
- \*Located in Suburban areas: 40%
- \*Located in Rural areas: 22%
- \*There are 230 Catholic Colleges & Universities
- \*They have a total enrollment of over 700,000

Learn more at the [National Catholic Education Association](#) and the [Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities](#).



### CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



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

### The Felician Sisters of Our Lady of Hope Province:

Click [here](#) for more information

### The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

Click [here](#) for more information and resources

### Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry:

*Serving Staff & Students*

[mpinelli@feliciancommunityservices.org](mailto:mpinelli@feliciancommunityservices.org)

716-961-2860



*Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry*

240 Pine Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14225