



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



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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

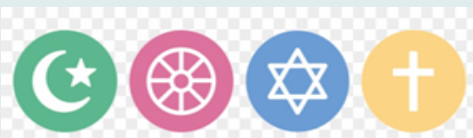
Are "all religions equal"?

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 an 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.

Resolution or Reflection?

By Gayle Maree

It's a little difficult to create New Year's resolutions when you haven't reflected on the year just gone. Because you need to know where you are before you can get to where you're going. A New Year's reflection is a powerful pattern to develop for the end of every year. It's also a cornerstone to the success of any New Year's resolution.

This isn't a time to blame yourself for the things you've done wrong or that haven't happened. Nor is it a time to regurgitate the past and why things didn't go the way you wanted or whose fault it was. It isn't a pity party. You only want to reflect and take the leap that it gives us, not get stuck. So there are 5 questions you can use to reflect on your year so that you can reassess and guide yourself on a new track for a brand new year.

5 Questions to Create a Powerful New Year

- 1. What am I proud of this past year?** My successes and achievements, both personally and professionally.
- 2. What obstacles held me back?** In love, in health and in my relationships
- 3. How can I use these challenges to grow?** What were the hiccups I encountered and how can I use them to move forward?
- 4. What have I most appreciated?** Throughout the year what are the little things I appreciated most?
- 5. Where am I going?** Imagine 3 years down the track, where would you like to be?

Every day begins anew. Each day you actually have the opportunity to press the reset button. You leave your emotions and moods behind every evening and the next morning you have a choice. Whether to pick up where you left off or to choose something new.

A New Year's Reflection is a NEW beginning. You don't have to repeat the last year. This is your opportunity to begin afresh.

The magic of writing your 5 reflection questions down is that you get to consolidate, right before your own eyes and choose what you would prefer for the next year.

A New Year's Resolution helps you to decide what you want but a New Year's Reflection helps you to understand where you are. And you need to know where you are so that you can head toward what you want.

Click [here](#) for full article.

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...



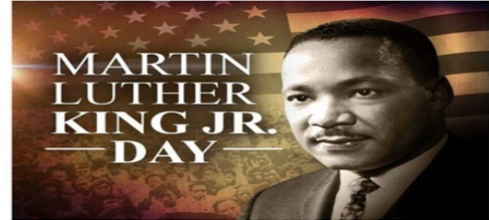
**CAMPUS MINISTRY IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM! COME FOLLOW US!
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

<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 2023-2024 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](#).



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