



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



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

"Reflect on your words first before you utter them so that you will not say something inappropriate or something which will offend another and perhaps which you will later regret saying."

CATHOLIC Q&A

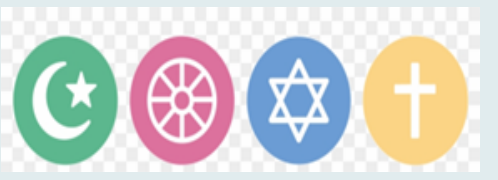
"What to watch for with social media evangelizing"

Click [here](#) for the answer

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

- 02/01: Imbolc - Pagan
- 02/02: Vasant Panchami - Hindu
- 02/03: Setsubun - Shinto
- 02/12: Sangha Day - Buddhism
- 02/13: Tu B'shevat - Judaism
- 02/14: St. Valentine Day - Christian
- 02/15: Nirvana Day - Buddhism
- 02/25-28: Ayyam-i-Ha - Baha'i
- 02/26: Maha Shivaratri - Hindu
- 02/28: Tibetan New Year - Buddhism



National Black History Month, 2025 Theme

The 2025 Black History Month theme, African Americans and Labor, focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people. Indeed, work is at the very center of much of Black history and culture. Be it the traditional agricultural labor of enslaved Africans that fed Low Country colonies, debates among Black educators on the importance of vocational training, self-help strategies and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or organized labor's role in fighting both economic and social injustice, Black people's work has been transformational throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora. The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work. Considering Black people's work through the widest perspectives provides versatile and insightful platforms for examining Black life and culture through time and space. In this instance, the notion of work constitutes compensated labor in factories, the military, government agencies, office buildings, public service, and private homes. But it also includes the community building of social justice activists, voluntary workers serving others, and institution building in churches, community groups, and social clubs and organizations. In each of these instances, the work Black people do and have done have been instrumental in shaping the lives, cultures, and histories of Black people and the societies in which they live. Understanding Black labor and its impact in all these multivariate settings is integral to understanding Black people and their histories, lives, and cultures. Click [here](#) to learn more.



A Theology of Work For Changing Times

by Ed Zablocki

Then: Your father worked at GM for 34 years, retiring at 60 with a great benefits package. Aunt Agnes worked until she was 70 at Joseph's, a women's fashion store, where she had been a sales representative her entire adult life. Work in the not-so-distant past meant security; your job could be yours for life, if that's what you wanted.

Now: Down-sizing. Right-sizing. Out-sourcing. Maquiladora plants. The transition from an industrial to an information society. Catch phrases that don't begin to capture the gut-wrenching change for millions of American workers and their families. Job security has become an oxymoron.

Clearly, for an ever increasing number of individuals in the modern world, the idea of vocation does not fit well with the reality of their work lives. A career change, if one were serious about understanding your work as a vocation from God, could be taken to represent a lack of faithfulness to one's initial "calling" (one's previous job), and, consequently, become a source of guilt.

A way out of this dilemma is offered in a recently published book *Work in the Spirit* by Miroslav Volf. Volf suggests that a Christian worker seek to recognize and use the gifts that the Holy Spirit has bestowed on them in God's immense generosity. "When human beings work, they work only because God's spirit has given them power and talents to good...all Christians have several gifts of the Spirit. Since most of these gifts can be exercised only through work, work must become a central aspect of Christian living."

If work is the God-given means we have to use the gifts of the Spirit that we have received - be they for organization, hospitality, teaching, design, healing, ad infinitum - then there is no inconsistency in our faithfulness to our calling (i.e., the use of our gifts) and our changing jobs or even careers. Even if we become unemployed, we can be using the gifts we have been given in our daily lives with our family, community and volunteer organizations. 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

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative. Click [here](#) to learn more. To be continued...



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@11:15 AM IN THE CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE.
OPEN TO STUDENTS AND STAFF**

WHO WAS THE REAL SAINT VALENTINE?

Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love."

Although not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome.

In 1969, the Roman Catholic Church removed St. Valentine from the General Roman Calendar, because so little is known about him. However, the church still recognizes him as a saint, listing him in the February 14 spot of Roman Martyrology.



St. Valentine was arrested for continuing to try to convert people to Christianity. He was sent to Rome under the emperor Claudius Gothicus (Claudius II). According to the popular hagiographical identity, and what is believed to be the first representation of St. Valentine, the Nuremberg Chronicle, St. Valentine was a Roman priest martyred during Claudius' reign. The story tells that St. Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Both acts were considered serious crimes. A relationship between the saint and the emperor began to grow, until

Valentine attempted to convince Claudius of Christianity. Claudius became enraged and sentenced Valentine to death, commanding him to renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and beheaded. St. Valentine refused to renounce his faith and Christianity and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 269.

Although the exact origin of the holiday is not widely agreed upon, it is widely recognized as a day for love, devotion, and romance.

St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of beekeepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and his feast day is celebrated on February 14. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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Serving Staff & Students

mpinelli@feliciancommunityservices.org

716-961-2860



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240 Pine Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14225