



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 5 Vol. 6 | February 3, 2025 | Student Edition

### 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. 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.



## Four Beautiful Things That Can Happen When Life Doesn't Go As Planned

By Lauren McKeithen

“This isn’t how my life was supposed to go.” Every person has had this thought once or twice in their life. We have a plan of how we think our life will look, but life can throw curveballs that change everything. How do you pick up the pieces of your life and survive when a plan or dream has died?

It’s a normal part of life to struggle with letting go of what was and to move forward to the unknown, which is why God is there to uplift and remind us that He’s with us through the uncertainty, pain, and struggle, and He will lead us through to the other side. Here are some ways that God can use times of unexpected changes in our lives for good.

### 1. Alignment or realignment.

Unexpected life changes typically cause you to rethink your life and priorities, which can help you decide to stop running your life on autopilot and start being intentional about your actions, life, and priorities.

### 2. Renewed surrender.

The only way to genuinely move past the heartbreak and disappointment of your broken plans and dreams is to surrender to Jesus fully.

### 3. Deeper dependence on God.

Unexpected events in our lives tend to help us remember that God is, or at least should be, the driving force in our lives. He calls you to step into what He’s already doing in your life and to walk in what He’s already prepared for you.

### 4. A stronger trust in God.

When things hit our lives that feel like they came out of nowhere, it’s helpful to remind ourselves that God knew all the days we would live before we were born.

Click [here](#) to read full article.

## OUR CORE VALUES

Respect for Human Dignity



Compassion



**SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE IN NEED**



Transformation



Justice and Peace

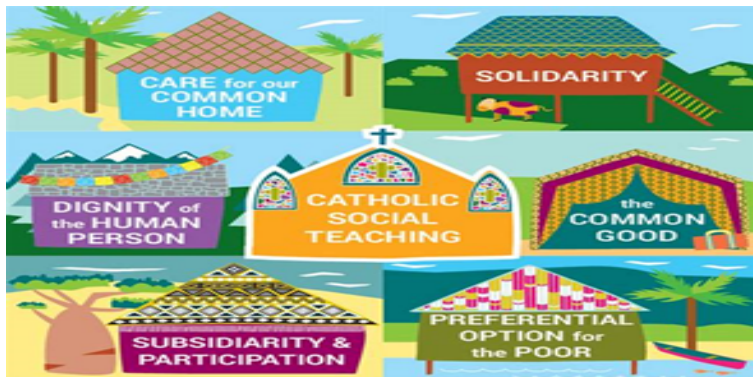
2024-2025 Focus

## *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 #5: The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

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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## 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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