



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We shall be remembered more for our kindness than our accomplishments, more for our generosity than our riches, and more for our service than our success."

- Bill Ward

CATHOLIC Q&A

What do Catholics believe about...

The ethics of the COVID vaccines?

click [here](#) for the answer

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

click [here](#) for more information

- 02/02: Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Christian
- 02/03: Feast of Saint Blaze - Christian
- 02/03: Setsebun (Spring begins)- Shinto
- 02/08: Nirvana Day-Buddhism
- 02/12: Triodion-OrthodoxChristian
- 02/12: New Year- Chinese traditional
- 02/14: St. Valentine's Day-Christian
- 02/14: Transfiguration Sunday-Christian
- 02/15: Nirvana Day- Buddhist/Jain
- 02/16: Vasant Panchami-Hindu
- 02/17: Ash Wednesday/Lent begins - Christian
- 02/21: Triodion begins - Orthodox Christian
- 02/26: Purim - Jewish

A BRIEF REFLECTION TO BEGIN LENT

By Kevin Mullen OFM

Marked with an ash-cross on our foreheads we begin Lent with the hope that we would encounter the transforming effects of the cross of Jesus Christ in our upcoming Easter celebration and ultimately when we face our personal transition from this life. With these goals in mind, Lent becomes a critical season for us to enter into intense periods of prayer, fasting, and alms-giving in order to experience a "change of heart" – a metanoia – that will help us look upon the world and respond to the needs of others with the love and compassion of Jesus...

Click [here](#) for full article. Lent begins February 17.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrate Black History Month by getting to know the dynamic and inspiring Sister Thea Bowman.

Gifted with a brilliant mind, beautiful voice and a dynamic personality, Sister Thea, a Franciscan sister, shared the message of God's love through a teaching career. After 16 years of teaching, at the elementary, secondary and university level, the bishop of Jackson, Mississippi, invited her to become the consultant for inter-cultural awareness.

In her role as consultant Sister Thea, an African American, gave presentations across the country; lively gatherings that combined singing, gospel preaching, prayer and storytelling. Her programs were directed to break down racial and cultural barriers. She encouraged people to communicate with one another so that they could understand other cultures and races.

Click [here](#) for more.

HOW PRAYER BEFORE WORK CAN INSPIRE YOUR DAY

From: [beliefnet.com](#)

Even when we least feel like it, saying a prayer and building up the inner person can help and inspire you before heading into work. Prayer doesn't need to be guided by rules or self-regulated.

Asking for God's presence and guidance into your day can be the simplest communication that can be ongoing. How do you start?

It can be as simple as getting 10 minutes of quiet time before leaving for work or, while driving. You can pray for the company, the health and protection over co-workers, those you like and don't like!

First be honest. If you are struggling with burnout or just feel like giving up, talk it through with someone. Ask them to prayer with you. This will help build you up and have confidence to face the day or situations. Prayer has been linked to having a better mood and has showed to improve health.

Try this prayer from **Beliefnet** to start the day for help.

"Creator of all, as I enter this workplace, I bring your presence with me. I speak your peace, your grace, your mercy, and your perfect order in this office. I acknowledge your power over all that will be spoken, thought, decided, and done within these walls. Lord, I thank you for the gifts you have blessed me with. I commit to using them responsibly in your honor. Give me a fresh supply of strength to do my job. Anoint my projects, ideas, and energy so that even my smallest accomplishment may bring you glory. Lord, when I am confused guide me. When I am burned out infuse me with the light of the Holy Spirit. May the work that I do and the way I do it bring faith, joy, and a smile to all that I come in contact with today."

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

OUR CORE VALUES

Respect for Human Dignity



Transformation



JUSTICE and PEACE



Compassion



Solidarity with the Poor

2020-2021 Focus

JUSTICE & PEACE REFLECTION

Learn more about the Franciscan Action Network!

The original idea for the [Franciscan Action Network \(FAN\)](#) came as a result of a challenge by Franciscans International (FI) and the representatives of each of the six different branches of the Franciscan family.

Located in Rome, this entity is referred to as the "Roman VI." FI and the Roman VI saw that a great deal of the work they did at the UN and in Rome was affected by what happened in the United States. They called for all of the different branches of the Franciscan families to come together and to present a unified Franciscan voice in Washington DC. One of the early leaders was Sister Margaret Mary Kimmins, an Allegheny Franciscan sister, who had served on the board of Franciscans International and worked as director of faith outreach at Bread for the World. She had a unique perspective on the connection between what happens in Washington and what happens at the UN. Margaret Mary along with Russ Testa, who was the JPIC director for the Holy Name Province of the OFM, Brother Tino Arias, OFM Capuchin from the Province of St. Mary's, and Tom Bello the National Minister of the Secular Franciscans formed a steering committee.

In the fall of 2007, there was a gathering in Baltimore of approximately 150 Franciscans from across the country representing all the different branches of the Franciscan Family, including leaders from all four orders as well as leaders from the Secular Franciscan Order, Episcopal Franciscans, and the Ecumenical Franciscans. As a result of this retreat, there emerged the goal for a new collective identity, one that would be responsive to today's social crises. At this gathering, the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) was created. Built to "faithfully represent our steering committee, our Franciscan institutional members and our many new individual members—both religious and secular—in one way: the propagation of a restorative course of action for our culture through intelligent advocacy. This civic action we call advocacy is rooted in the spiritual strength of an eight-hundred-year-old faith tradition that obligates us." The years 2008-2009 were primarily used to organize FAN. An advisory/action committee was created with representatives from all branches of the Franciscan family and all geographic regions. Bylaws and Articles of incorporation were written, a board of directors was established, and FAN received its 501(c)3 status.

Since the early days, FAN has grown into a well-established organization in Washington, DC. Recognized as a lead organization on several issues, FAN has expanded our staff to include directors of advocacy and campaigns as well as retaining a communications coordinator and bookkeeper. Membership has expanded to 54 member institutions. With their support, along with various grants and other outside funding, we continue to build our advocacy efforts within our core issues as established at our founding. By partnering with other organizations, we have become a dependable Franciscan voice for justice both in D.C. and beyond.

National Catholic Schools Week January 31- February 6, 2021

Catholic Higher Education Embracing Social Justice



Community Service

9,000 Community service hours performed by Gwynedd Mercy University students in 2014. *Gwynedd Mercy University, Pennsylvania*

2,000 Hours of service by 200 first-time BCU students during a two-week "Serve Without Boundaries" movement. *Briar Cliff University, Iowa*

500,000 Community service hours DePaul University students donate annually to the Stearns Center for Community-based Service Learning. *DePaul University*

31,561 Number of service hours by faculty, staff and senior students over 2.5 years at home and abroad. *Mount Carmel College of Nursing, Ohio*

10,000 Service hours performed including caring for those living in poverty and experiencing homelessness. *College of Mount Saint Vincent, New York*



Education

1 First University in Taiwan to promote service-learning courses with reflexive education. *Providence University, Taiwan*

193 Number of students participating in a program for motivated Chicago students with limited financial resources who want to transfer to a four-year institution. *Loyola University, Illinois*

1 Post-Prison Program with Hudson Link that helps students who took undergraduate classes while in prison continue their education. *St. Francis College, New York*



Donations

\$18,000 Money raised to support humanitarian efforts for the victims of the Nepal earthquake that hit in Spring 2015. *Caldwell University, New Jersey*

742 Pounds of food Ohio Dominican University students donated to a local food bank in 2014 serving 2,000 people in their community each month. *Ohio Dominican University, Ohio*

\$36,000 Brother Shamus McGrenna rode 550 miles to support the Dorothy Day Outreach Center during a two-week "Returning to Our Roots" cycling trip. *St. Francis University, Pennsylvania*



77% of Catholic College and University students believe helping the poor and disadvantaged should be a life goal. *IFCU Youth Cultures Study*

1 First college in New York City to earn the distinction as a Fair Trade College. *Manhattan College, New York*

150,000 hands-on care hours DePaul University nursing students donate to community organizations, hospitals and clinics annually. *DePaul University, Illinois*

Thank you to all the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities member institutions that provided this data.

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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 our staff & students

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Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry

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