



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 2 Vol. 1 | September 7, 2021 | Staff/BOT Edition

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”*

-Leo Tzu

### CATHOLIC Q&A

What does it mean to be Catholic? (instead of Protestant)

click [here](#) for the answer

### INTERFAITH CALENDAR

click [here](#) for more information

- 09/01: New Year - *Orthodox Christians*
- 09/6-8: Rosh Hashanah - *Jewish*
- 09/08: Nativity of the Virgin Mary - *Christian*
- 09/10: Ganesh Chaturthi - *Hindu*
- 09/13: Yom Kippur - *Jewish*
- 09/20-27: Sukkot - *Jewish*
- 09/21: Paryushanna Parva - *Jain*
- 09/22: Mabon/Imbolc - *Pagan*
- 09/29: Michael & all Angels - *Christian*



### WELCOME TO THE NEW SEMESTER!

A PRAYER TO BEGIN THE SEMESTER

Creator God,  
 you call us together at the beginning of this new school year. We ask you to send your spirit upon us that,  
 as the days and terms unfold, we may be always mindful of your presence and alert to opportunities to see and serve you in those around us. We pray that we may teach and learn well by the example of our own lives, by our knowledge and love of learning, by our gentleness and care. We pray also for all of have died or been adversely effect by COVID-19 and for the heroic men and women who have cared for them.  
 In all that we do and say, we pray that, in building up the community of our college, we may contribute to the betterment of society and to the Kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, for your greater glory.  
 Amen.

Join us for the opening school liturgy  
**MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
 Wednesday, September 8 @ 11:15 am  
 College Chapel



Join us for an **Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace to Commemorate the 20th Anniversary of 9/11** on Friday, September 10 at 11:15 am in front of the College

### WORK AND OUR COMMON DIGNITY: A LABOR DAY REFLECTION

by Bishop Paul Loverde

*“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary?” (Mk 13:55).*

Christ Himself took up the tools of a carpenter, working with human hands for most of His life on earth. As we recall the image of Christ the worker, I invite you to reflect with me on the implications of this image for the observance of Labor Day. Each Labor Day, I cannot help but recall the blessed memory of my parents. My own father, who emigrated from Sicily at the age of 18, and my mother worked tirelessly to provide for me. They both worked long hours in low-paying factory jobs and sometimes unsafe conditions; they were determined people. They sent money back to Sicily to help relatives in need. Their work made a difference thousands of miles away.

Church teachings rightly remind us of the value of work: among other things, work enhances our human dignity, it is needed in order to form and maintain a family, and it contributes to the common good of our local, national and global communities. Workers today, like my parents in their time, know the value of what they do in order to provide for themselves and their families and to contribute to the development of society. Yet they also know the difficulties and challenges their work can bring, especially the need to balance time spent at work with time spent at home with their families.

This Labor Day, let us reflect on the value of work and on how we recognize and respect the dignity of all workers, including those who have immigrated to our local area. Undoubtedly, we can do more. I pray that we are first and foremost a people of charity. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mk 12:31).

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

## OUR CORE VALUES

Justice and Peace



Transformation



**RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY**



Compassion



Solidarity with the Poor

2021-2022 Focus

## A "Respect for Human Dignity" Reflection:

### TOGETHER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING!

The World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking has been celebrated since 2015 by Pope Francis. It is the memorial of Saint Josephine Bakhita, a religious of Sudanese origin who was a victim of slavery for many years in her life. The Day is promoted worldwide, mainly by Talitha Kum, the International Network of Catholic Religious against human trafficking, through its International Committee.

Various activities have been carried out this year around the world, praying and reflecting, to raise awareness on this problem that mainly affects women, boys, and girls. The motto chosen is "Together Against Human Trafficking," since it is a problem to which no one can remain indifferent, nor can it be approached by an individual, and we need joint actions.

In Rome, two public activities were carried out. On the memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita, we gathered to pray together at the prayer vigil with the theme, "Shed a Light against Human Trafficking." About 500 people, mostly religious, gathered at the Basilica of San Antonio (Antonianum). There also was a group of religious who completed the Training Course for leaders of the networks against human trafficking, offered by the Talitha Kum in collaboration with the Pontifical University Antonianum.

On Sunday, the 10th of February, many people participated in a public march from the Castel Sant'Angelo towards St. Peter's Square. During the march, the prayer-cards for the victims of human trafficking was distributed to the people who gathered in the square to participate in the Angelus with the Pope. At noon, Pope Francis led the Angelus and addressed words of gratitude for those who work against human trafficking, especially the religious. He also urged governments: "I make a special appeal to governments to address with determination the causes of this scourge and protect the victims." Finally, he invited everyone to pray for the intercession of St. Josephine Bakhita.

Br. Jaime Campos F., OFM Director, JPIC Office - General Curia

Click [here](#) for more information.

# STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, together referred to as "The High Holy Days," are the two most important holidays of the Jewish year, the former celebrating the coming of the New Year and the creation of the world, the latter (ten days later) beginning the new year with a Day of Atonement for one's wrongdoings. Synagogue services on these days are the most well attended of the year; they involve the blowing of the shofar (a ram's horn), and, on Yom Kippur, a day of fasting.

The High Holy Days stand alongside the three festivals of Sukkot, Passover, and Shavuot as the five major festivals of the Jewish year during which one is commanded to lay aside work completely. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur fall in the lunar month called Tishrei. On the first and second days of the month, Rosh Hashanah celebrates the new year and the birthday of the world. Ten days later, Yom Kippur begins the new year with a Day of Atonement for one's wrongdoings. The stretch between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is called "The Days of Awe," a period of judgment and repentance, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal, of standing in awe before God. Click [here](#) to learn more.



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### The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

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### Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry:

Serving staff & students  
[Ichinn@villa.edu](mailto:Ichinn@villa.edu)  
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