



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



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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*
- 09/15-16: 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

SPIRITUAL OR RELIGIOUS? WHY NOT BOTH? (part I)

By Mathew J. Kessler & Joe Baumgarten

Are you religious, spiritual, both, or neither? Seemingly more so than ever before, when individuals are presented with this question or one equally inquisitive about their stance on religion, the response is: "I'm spiritual but not religious (SBNR)." For some, spirituality and religion are intertwined - one doesn't exist without the other - while others delineate a clear separation between the two.

You may ask why this matters to those of us who are firm in our beliefs. It matters to some of us because our family or friends express a SBNR or similar ideology. In addition, it should matter to every believer because this issue affects the future of our faith.

DEFINING TERMINOLOGIES

Broadly, the word **spiritual** refers to something that exists but can't be seen. People of all stripes agree that spirituality also implies a connection to another realm of life. Believers talk about the connection to the communion of saints that exists through faith. People evoke a spiritual connection to the earth since both humans and the planet are alive and change over time.

Most would agree that a healthy life means integrating spiritual elements with family, work, play, and other activities.

The word **religious** and its companion, religiosity, point to a way of acting and thinking that identifies a person as belonging to a group motivated by certain ideas. The vision of this group and its rituals and structure become part of a person's life, inform how a person relates to others, and how he or she navigates life every day.

Like a coin that has a front and back side yet is one entity, a human is a union of body and soul. Furthermore, people have the capacity to develop a religious outlook. This consists of systemic symbols and concepts that weave the earthly and spiritual orders together. (to be continued)

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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