



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 2 Vol. 2 | October 4, 2021 | Staff/BOT Edition

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“When you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.”*

*~Saint Francis of Assisi*

### CATHOLIC Q&A

Who was St. Francis of Assisi and why is he relevant today?

click [here](#) for the answer

### INTERFAITH CALENDAR

click [here](#) for more information

- 10/04: Feast of Saint Francis - *Christian*
- 10/07-14: Navaratri - *Hindu*
- 10/15: Dasara - *Hindu*
- 10/18: Mawlid an Nabi - *Islam*
- 10/20: Birth of B'ab - *Baha'i*
- 10/20: Installation of Scriptures - *Sikh*
- 10/31: All Hallows Eve - *Christian*
- 10/31: Reformation Day - *Protestant*
- 10/31: Deep Diwali - *Jain*



### FELICIAN FRANCISCAN HERITAGE DAYS!

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 2: Day of Service

Monday, October 4:  
Liturgy for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi  
- 11:30 am - College Chapel

Monday, October 4:  
Mission Matters Monthly Newsletter – Special Heritage Days Edition

Tuesday, October 5:  
"Telling our Stories-Bridging the Past and the Present" – Villa Maria College Celebrates its 60th Anniversary - Free Cake & Ice Cream - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm - Dining Hall

Wednesday, October 6:  
"Respect for Human Dignity" lecture presentation on Human Trafficking by PATH of WNY - 11:15 am - College Auditorium

Thursday, October 7:  
Villa Maria Health and Wellness Fair - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm - Dining Hall

Friday, October 8:  
Prayer Service for the Feast of Blessed Mary Angela 11:15 am – College Chapel

Sunday, October 10:  
Feast of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska, Foundress of Felician Sisters



### AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE: SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

by Daniel Harrell

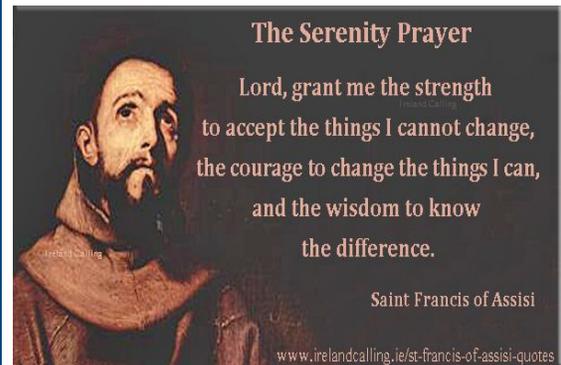
Francis lived in an era, like so many, where greed and political power contaminated the church. Christianity became so entangled with culture that it lost all of its bite and ability to inspire anything more than jaded indifference from the pews. Into the midst of this Francis walked, radically committed to a simplicity and humility so stark and so engaging that people could not help want a piece of it. The gospel takes on irrepressible power whenever Christians actually live it out. As one contemporary put it, because of St. Francis, "men and women, rich and worldly renounced possessions and, for the love of Christ, turned their backs on the world." Francis and his Franciscan adherents ignited an enormous, widespread religious revival. "Start by doing what's necessary," Francis said, "then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

Typically the image that comes to mind when thinking of St. Francis is either some ceramic lawn ornament or that of a docile, sprouts-eating peacenik, clothed in hooded burlap and Birkenstocks, playing with the birds and padding about in flowered fields—just praising God for the sunshine. True, Francis did wear hooded burlap (or something close to it). And he was a peacenik. "While you are proclaiming peace with your lips," he said, "be careful to have it even more fully in your heart." Click [here](#) for the full article.

#### The Serenity Prayer

Lord, grant me the strength to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Saint Francis of Assisi



[www.irelandcalling.ie/st-francis-of-assisi-quotes](http://www.irelandcalling.ie/st-francis-of-assisi-quotes)

## 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:

### TAKE ACTION TO AID AFGHANS!

from the [usccb](#)

At the start of 2021, half the population of Afghanistan—including more than 4 million women and nearly 10 million children—already needed humanitarian assistance. More than 500,000 people have been displaced since the end of May, and those numbers continue to rise. Thousands of people who have worked as interpreters, translators, and in other capacities alongside the United States military, government personnel, and contractors over the past twenty years, including Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applicants, find themselves and their families in danger. USCCB staff, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities, and others are working to ensure safe passage for as many evacuees as possible, including assisting up to 30,000 people with resettlement in the United States.

The United States must remain committed to the people of Afghanistan and continue to support credible, accountable humanitarian efforts that benefit these millions of vulnerable people. Please click [here](#) to urge Congress, in discussions with the Administration, to ensure that robust and flexible funding be provided through respected and credible organizations with experience in Afghanistan. We must help people who remain in Afghanistan and Afghans being resettled.

**Respect for Human Dignity**  
OUR REVERENCE FOR AND COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE DIGNITY OF PERSONS.

**WE PRACTICE THE VALUE OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY BY EXHIBITING OUR REVERENCE FOR AND COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE DIGNITY OF ALL PERSONS:**

*"Preserve among yourselves a unity, peace, love and kindness. Practice toward one another gentleness, understanding and cooperation."—Blessed Mary Angela*

**BEHAVIORS:**

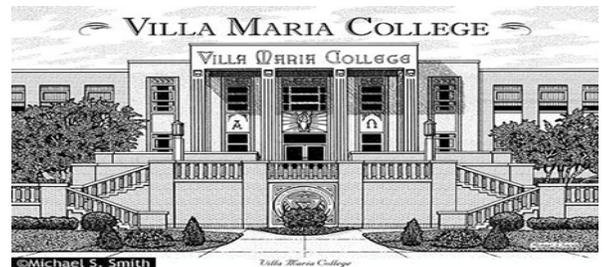
- Promote the sacredness of all human life
- Treat all people with dignity and respect without regard to age, gender, race, economic status or religious tradition
- Involve others in decisions that affect them
- Acknowledge each person's contribution

**Reflection Questions:**

- What are some ways you have experienced others respecting human dignity?
- How do you, in word and behavior, respect human dignity?

## OUR HISTORY, OUR HERITAGE TIMELINE

- 1181/1182 \* Birth of Francis of Assisi
- 1193/1194 \* Birth of Clare of Assisi
- 1226 \* Death of Francis of Assisi
- 1228 \* Canonization of Saint Francis of Assisi
- 1253 \* Death of Clare of Assisi
- 1255 \* Canonization of Saint Clare of Assisi
- 1515 \* Birth of Felix of Cantalice
- 1587 \* Death of Felix of Cantalice
- 1712 \* Canonization of Saint Felix of Cantalice
- 1825 \* Birth of Sophia (Mary Angela) Truskowska
- 1855 \* Founding of the Felician Sister by Mary Angela Truskowska
- 1874 \* Felician Sisters arrive in America
- 1881 \* Felician Sisters arrive in Buffalo, N.Y.
- 1899 \* Death of Mother Mary Angela Truskowska
- 1961 \* Founding of Villa Maria College by the Felician Sisters First President – Mother Mary Annette Guzowski
- 1965 \* Laywomen admitted as students
- 1967 \* Second President – Sister Mary Pachomia Lenda
- 1968 \* Laymen admitted as students
- 1974 \* College achieves full accreditation status
- 1978 \* Third President – Sister Marcella Maria Garus
- 1986 \* College celebrates 25th Anniversary
- 1993 \* Beatification of Blessed Mary Angela Truskowska
- 2001 \* College celebrates 40th Anniversary
- 2005 \* College awards first Baccalaureate degrees
- 2011 \* College celebrates 50th Anniversary
- 2018 \* Fourth President – Dr. Matthew Giordano PhD.



### CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



[www.villa.edu](http://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 staff & students  
[Ichinn@villa.edu](mailto:Ichinn@villa.edu)  
716-961-2858



*Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry*

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