



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



No. 2 Vol. 3 | November 1, 2021 | Staff/BOT Edition

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Compare yourself to who you were yesterday, not to who someone else is today."

-Jordan Peterson

CATHOLIC Q&A

Christianity and wealth, can a Christian be rich?

click [here](#) for the answer

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

click [here](#) for more information

- 11/01: All Saints Day - *Christian*
- 11/02: All Souls Day - *Christian*
- 11/04: Diwali - *Hindu-Jain*
- 11/12: Birth of Baha'u'llah - *Baha'i*
- 11/13: Jain New Year - *Jain*
- 11/15: Nativity Fast begins - *Orthodox Christians*
- 11/24: Martyrdom of Guru Bahdur - *Sikh*
- 11/28: 1st Sunday of Advent - *Christian*
- 11/29-Dec. 6: Hanukkah - *Jewish*



A NOVEMBER TO NOTE!

November 1-30: Native American Heritage month - click [here](#) to learn more.



November 11: Veteran's Day - click [here](#) to learn more.



November 15-19: National Bible Week - Click [here](#) to learn more about the Bible.



November 18: Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service - 11:15 am (watch emails for location)



November 21: Felician Sisters Founders Day - click here to [learn](#) more.

November 29- December 6: Hanukkah [learn more.](#)

HOW TO BE HAPPY AT WORK!

By Jim Berlucchi

I have written a few columns that have explored the idea of happiness at work which can some days feel like an oxymoron. But let's consider three more tips for increasing satisfaction at work.

Strive for the Golden Mean: Aristotle is one of many philosophers who observed something interesting about human beings. We often tend to extremes – toward excess or deficiency, both of which are problematic. To the degree that you can control it, try to steer a middle course. Don't work too much or too little, too intensely or too casually. Don't take work too seriously, but don't take it too lightly. Don't love it too much – or too little. As with many things in life, balance is a key to happiness. Not easy to achieve, but always worth trying.

Take pride in your work: As we hear the people say of Jesus in St. Mark's Gospel "He has done all things well." (7:37) Admittedly, this was in reference to his mighty miracles. But it certainly must have applied to his competency as a carpenter. The Son of Man would have produced quality products, on time, with skill and attentiveness. His tools and workshop would be kept in good order, his manner courteous even with demanding customers. He would have taken rightful pride in multiple jobs well executed. Doing our work well is personally rewarding and produces happiness – a rightful emotion for rightful performance. God has so structured our nature. "Whatever your task, work heartily." (Col 3:23)

Don't sweat the small stuff: In the midst of the daily grind, it's easy to get perturbed about small matters. "I can't stand his smart aleck manner." "Her perfume is overwhelming." "What's my boss thinking?" Myriad small irritations translate into one big temptation – making everything a big deal. There are few big deals. Control your thoughts and emotions. Reject small-mindedness and embrace a sense of humor. Sooner or later, small matters will pass, and if you strive for equanimity, you'll be happier. And so will others.

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:

A call to a "better kind of politics"

In his encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis urges Catholics and all people of good will to seek "a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good" (no. 154). But what does Pope Francis mean by a better kind of politics? In order to unpack this phrase, we need to understand how the Church understands "politics." Catholics in the United States might make an understandable assumption that "politics" refers to partisan activities that occur during election season, including efforts by political parties to promote one candidate over the other, or "parallel monologues" masquerading as dialogue on television (no. 200). These kinds of activities are not what Pope Francis is referring to when he urges us to "a better kind of politics."

Rather, Pope Francis is referring to those activities through which we can bring the light of our faith to the public square in order to further integral human development, solidarity, justice and the common good. Our engagement can take a variety of forms.

Regularly participating in elections locally and nationally are important forms of political engagement that receive a lot of attention, but just as important (though less glamorous), are ongoing activities such as involvement in city council meetings or on school boards, knowing how and where funding is allocated in our community, understanding what issues most impact our neighborhoods, what cycles of poverty are working against our neighbors, and participating in processes that advocate for positive change.

As humans, we organize ourselves in families, in towns, and countries. The policies of each of these spheres express our values as a people. We put our Gospel call to love one another into action by advocating for policies that support the flourishing of all people. The means through which we engage and how we work with one another should also reflect our values. This is a better kind of politics. Click [here](#) to learn more.



**A BETTER KIND
OF POLITICS**
Civilize It

THANKSGIVING - NOVEMBER 25, 2021 Prayers of thanksgiving from a sampling of the world's religions

Baha'i:

O Thou kind Lord! This gathering is turning to Thee. These hearts are radiant with Thy love. These minds and spirits are exhilarated by the message of Thy glad tidings. Confirm this revered nation to upraise the standard of the oneness of humanity, to promulgate the Greatest Peace, to become thereby most glorious and praiseworthy among all the nations of the world. Make it precious and near to Thee through Thy bounty and bestowal.

Buddhism:

Expressions of gratitude to repay the kindness of the Buddhas whose words open the door to liberation, to our mothers for their boundless love, and to our enemies for assisting us in developing patience: What way is there to repay the Buddha who grant immeasurable benefit and who befriends the world without pretension other than by pleasing sentient beings?

Christianity:

Father all-powerful, your gifts of love are countless and your goodness infinite; as we come before you on Thanksgiving Day with gratitude for your kindness, open our hearts to have concern for every man, woman, and child, so that we may share your gifts in loving service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Islam:

Praise be to Allah who created us from His light with His hand and dignified us over His creatures and made us trustees of His creation and His revelation. The command of Allah has come, do not rush it. Glory be to Him; exalted above what they associate. Allah is with those who are righteous and those who are virtuous.

Judaism:

We thank You that You are Adonai our God and God of our ancestors throughout all time. You are the Rock of our lives, the Shield of our salvation in every generation. We thank you and speak your praises for our lives that are in Your hand, for our souls that are in Your charge, for Your miracles that are with us, and for Your wonders and Your gifts that are with us at all times—evening, morning, and noon.

Native American:

Great and Eternal Mystery of Life, Creator of All Things, I give thanks for the beauty You put in every single one of Your creations. I am grateful that You did not fail in making every stone, plant, creature, and human being a perfect and whole part of the Sacred Hoop. I am grateful that You have allowed me to see the strength and beauty of All My Relations.

CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



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
716-961-2858



Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry

240 Pine Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14225