



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 2 Vol. 3 | November 1, 2021 | Student 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!

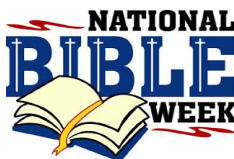
November 1-30: Native American Heritage Month - click [here](#) for more information.



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



November 15-19 - National Bible Week - join our student-led Bible Study on Nov. 3 & 17 at 11:15am in Campus Ministry Office



November 18: Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service at 11:15 am Recital Hall



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

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

### SPIRITUAL OR RELIGIOUS? WHY NOT BOTH (part II)

By Matthew J. Kessler & Joe Baumgarten

When asked on census forms to state their religious beliefs, a rapidly rising number of people are selecting "none." In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, when asked about their religion, 65 percent of American adults described themselves as Christians. At the same time, the number of individuals who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic, or "nothing in particular" increased ten percentage points since 2009 to 26 percent. This group has grown so rapidly over the last decade that statisticians now project it will be the single largest "faith group" by 2023. The disparity among the two groups is notably parallel to generation gaps between the people born from 1928-45 and millennials (1981-96).

In a world where people value individual freedom so highly, the decline of organized religion is no surprise. For millions, there is little room for any faith that limits the "freedoms" expressed in sentiments like, "If it feels good, do it," "you only live once," and "my body, my choice." Of course, everyone who claims to be SBNR or to hold no religious beliefs at all isn't evil. Similarly, people who claim religious principles aren't all good. Atheists can certainly perform virtuous works, and priests can certainly perform sinful ones. What separates them? In his book *The Parables of Judgment*, Robert Farrar Capon explores this question by studying Jesus' "judgment" parables that he gave toward the end of his ministry. Capon concludes:

*"Those who are congratulated at the end are those who believed in the mysterious, vindicating Parousia of the main character and who lived their lives on the basis of trust. Those who are condemned are those who did not. It is not the good works of the blessed that saves them, any more than it is the evil deeds of the cursed that damns them. It is only faith or unfaith that matters."*

If faith is all that matters, what is it that those with faith have that the "nones" and people who are SBNR do not? Is it something essential or a panacea?

(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:

### 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

**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.



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