



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



No. 2 Vol. 8 | April 4, 2022 | Staff/BOT Edition

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si'

CATHOLIC Q&A

Why come back to the Church?

click [here](#) for the answer

INTERFAITH CALENDAR click [here](#) for more information

- 04/02: Hindu New Year - *Hindu*
- 04/03: Ramadan begins - *Islam*
- 04/10: Ramanavami - *Hindu*
- 04/10: Palm Sunday - *Christian*
- 04/14: Baisakhi - *Sikh*
- 04/14: Holy Thursday - *Christian*
- 04/15: Good Friday - *Christian*
- 04/16: Theravadin New Year - *Buddhism*
- 04/16: Pesach begins - *Judaism*
- 04/17: Easter (Western) - *Christian*
- 04/21: First Day of Ridvan - *Baha'i*
- 04/23: Pesach ends: *Judaism*
- 04/24: Easter (Eastern) - *Orthodox Christian*
- 04/28: Yom HaShoah - *Judaism*

AN EASTER REFLECTION: A NEW DAY HAS DAWNED

by John Paul Thomas

In many parts of the world, Easter comes in spring. It's the time of year when nature itself brings forth the beginnings of new life. The tulips begin to rise from the cold and dormant earth, the leaves begin to bud on the trees, transforming the forest into a sea of green, and the Sun begins to shine with a new radiance, sending warmth at its rising each morning. Creation itself reflects the glory and splendor of the Resurrection of Christ in many ways.

The death of winter reflects the death of Christ and the silence of the tomb experienced on Holy Saturday. Everything goes dormant. Vegetation appears to die, and even the animals and insects retreat into various forms of hibernation and immobility. However, at the appointed time, as the warmth of the Sun rises anew, nature itself is called forth from the death of winter into the new life of spring.

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



RAMADAN BEGINS APRIL 3

Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate. Click [here](#) to learn more.

5 RULES FOR SPIRITUAL ENGAGEMENT AT WORK

By JBW At [patheos.com](#)

A few days ago, one bold soul came forth and asked me quite directly just how exactly I handled this dilemma of integrating my faith in the workplace. Much to my surprise, I immediately rattled off a five-pronged strategy, delivered with a great deal of authority and confidence. Maybe I have actually learned a thing or two from all of this Blog-writing over the past couple of years.

So, without further delay, here are a few tricks I have learned to keep me spiritually engaged at work. Maybe they can help you too.

1. Know Your God-Given Strengths. At work, we unfortunately tend to obsess about the things we are not good at rather than relishing in our wonderfulness.
2. It's Not About You. Once you acknowledge that your unique abilities come from God, it's only natural to start thinking about how God might want to use those gifts. It's primarily going to be around helping other people.
3. Surrender to the Greater Purpose for Your Work. Now that your ego has been put safely back into its box, the scales just might fall off of your eyes as you start to see things from a more eternal, spiritual point of view.
4. Get a Spiritual Partner. You need to share your experiences – with a mentor, a coach, a friend, a small group – someone else who you can share your work life with, and who will hold you accountable for your spiritual growth
5. Develop a Portfolio of Spiritual Practices. This typically might involve a quiet time of meditation, scripture reading, prayer, or journaling, something to get your spiritual self-jump-started for the day.

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

OUR CORE VALUES

Justice and Peace



Transformation



RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY



Compassion



Solidarity with People in Need

2021-2022 Focus

A "Respect for Human Dignity" Reflection:

Learn About How You Can Make a Difference at change.org

This is how their website describes themselves:

Our mission is to empower people everywhere to create the change they want to see. Our vision is a world where no one is powerless, and creating change is part of everyday life.

Change.org is the world's largest platform for social change, with over 329 million users globally (as of Dec. 31st, 2019). Every day, millions of people use change.org to start, sign, and support petitions on issues that matter to their lives and communities, creating powerful campaigns that drive real change.

Change.org is comprised of two organizations that enable us to maximize our impact around the world: a Public Benefit Corporation (PBC) and a charitable Foundation.

Change.org PBC is a mission-driven company that builds all of change.org's technology and supports users across North America, Europe, and Australia. All of the PBC's revenue comes from our users, whose contributions enable us to offer free online tools and support for people-driven campaigns.

The Change.org Foundation is a non-profit organization that offers free grassroots training and support to users of the Change.org platform primarily in Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. The Foundation is funded through a combination of small donations and philanthropic funds, and has an independent board, governance structure, finances, and administration to the PBC.

Click [here](#) for the Wikipedia entry on this organization for more information



PRAYERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT EARTH DAY, APRIL 22, 2022

from religionsforpeace.org

Buddhism: Even as a mother protects with her life, her child, her only child, so with a boundless heart Should one cherish all living beings, Radiating kindness over the entire world, Spreading upwards to the skies, And downwards to the depths. ~ *Metta Sutta*

Christianity: Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ~ *Matthew 6:28*

Hinduism: Even if there is only one tree full of flowers and fruit in a village, that place becomes worthy of worship and respect. ~ *Mahabharata, Adiparra, 138:25*

Indigenous Native American: Earth teach me stillness as the grasses are stilled with light. Earth teach me suffering as old stones suffer with memory. Earth teach me humility as blossoms are humble with beginning. Earth teach me caring as the mother who secures her young. ~ *Ute Prayer*

Islam: Do not cut down a tree, do not abuse a river, do not harm animals, and be always kind and humane to God's creation, even to your enemies. ~ *Abu-Bakr*

Jainism: One who disregards the existence of earth, air, fire, water, and vegetation Disregards his or her own existence which is entwined with them. ~ *Mahavir*

Judaism: But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; In the Lord's hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all humankind. ~ *Job 12:7-10*

Sikhism: God created night and day, seasons, time, and occasions. So also, air, water, fire, and nether regions. Amidst these has God fixed the earth, the place for Righteous Activities. ~ *Guru Granth Sahib*

Taoism: Heaven cannot but be high. Earth cannot but be broad. The sun and moon cannot but revolve. All creation cannot but flourish. To do so is their Tao. ~ *Chuang Tze*

Shintoism: Our gratitude, love, and responsibility within a living nature should not be avoided. Seeing a forest as merely an object of economic activity is a kind of trafficking in flesh, an injustice, a crime. ~ *Shoroku Shinto Yamatoyama*

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The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

Click [here](#) for more information and resources

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