



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



No. 2 Vol. 8 | April 4, 2022 | Student 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 SIGNS GOD IS TELLING YOU TO PAUSE!

By Lesli White

We live in a world full of noise. There is so much movement and so many forces pulling at us. It can become so easy to get lost in everything trying to gain our attention. In these chaotic moments, God may be calling you to pause and be still. Psalm 46:10-11 says, "Be still, and know that I am God." Isn't it incredible how some Christians can go through the worst suffering and pain but still find joy? They can do this because they are still. They put all of their concerns into God's hands. God may be trying to reach you right now. Instead of tuning into the noise of your worries, frustrations, and concerns, listen to the voice of God. Here are five signs God is telling you to pause.

You're Frustrated: Your very frustration may be God telling you it's time to stop and listen to Him.

Spiritual Fatigued: Do you notice yourself more sluggish and tired than usual? This may be the result of ongoing spiritual battles and separation from God. This may also be caused by spiritual fatigue.

Hectic Schedule: When you feel incredibly overwhelmed, you can know that God is right there, calling you to slow down and grounding you.

You're Chronically Anxious: It can take over your life and make it difficult for you to make the moves you need to move forward. This is a big sign that God is telling you to be still.

You're No Longer Worshiping: A big sign God is telling you to pause is when you feel like you're pulled away from worship. Worship is one of the greatest ways we connect with God.

It can be so difficult trying to find the space to pause. While being still is difficult, it is one of the only ways we can truly connect with God. In order to pause, we have to be able to hear God's voice and the messages He is trying to send us. You may have trouble hearing His voice directly, but if you are aware of the signs, you may be able to figure out what He is trying to say to you. [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-Baker*

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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