



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



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QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."
Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"Every year you make a resolution to change yourself. This year, make a resolution to be yourself." Unknown

CATHOLIC Q&A

Hope in the New Year

Click [here](#) to hear more

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

- 01/01: Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian
- 01/01: Feast of Saint Basil - Orthodox Christian
- 01/01: Shogatsu Gantan-sai (New Year) - Shinto
- 01/05: Guru Gobindh Singh birthday - Sikh
- 01/07: Feast of the Nativity - Orthodox Christian
- 01/08: Epiphany - Christian
- 01/13: Maghi - Sikh
- 01/18: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins - Christian
- 01/22: Chinese New Year - Chinese
- 01/30: Mahayana New Year - Buddhism



ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

By Fr. James Loughran, S.A.

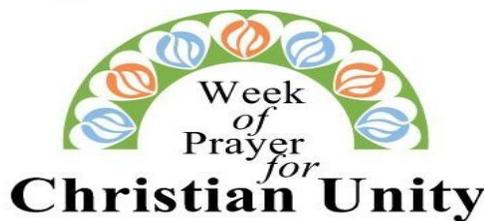
The World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity Joint Commission on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has shared with Graymoor the Scriptural Theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023.

The theme is from Isaiah 1:17, "Do good; seek justice." The entire scriptural passage for the theme is Isaiah 1:12-18, lamenting a lack of justice among the People of God. Yet, it also promises redemption by encouraging acts of justice.

In its Introduction to the Theme, the organizers write: "Today, separation and oppression continue to be manifest when any single group or class is given privileges above others. The sin of racism is evident in any beliefs or practices that distinguish or elevate one "race" over another. When accompanied or sustained by imbalances in power, racial prejudice moves beyond individual relationships to the very structures of society – the systemic perpetuation of racism. Its existence has unfairly benefited some, including churches, and burdened and excluded others, simply due to the color of their skin and the cultural associations based upon perceptions of 'race'."

Calling to mind our common Christian commitment to justice and mercy, we pray that the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2023, will be full of moments of conversion of heart through our ecumenical encounters, so that "all may be one."

Click [here](#) to learn more.



THE ROLE OF CREATIVITY & INCLUSION FOR WORKPLACE SPIRITUALITY

By Kent Rhodes

CREATIVITY

Creativity is a necessary part of the business cycle. When technology, markets shifts, and demographic changes force organizations to rethink products and services, creativity is the key to successfully navigating those changes. The artistic industries have long recognized the spiritual nature of individual and group creative processes, and many educators understand the importance of seamless, daily incorporation of creativity in helping their students learn. The spiritual workplace recognizes that being creative is not necessarily reserved for a special few, but that all people have creative capacities. A spiritual workplace provides resources to help people to uncover their creative potential and to practice creativity within the organization.

INCLUSION

Businesses are increasingly becoming core sources of community for people in societies. The spiritual organization respects and values individuals' life experiences and the lessons learned from them. Such an organization is intentional in its efforts to include individuals who bring appropriate skill sets to a particular job, but who may have been excluded historically from participating in a professional community of practice due to circumstances they did not choose. Such historic exclusion from the workplace has included people with physical disabilities, people whose skin color or ethnic origin differs from those of the majority population, and those who have been discriminated against due to gender or sexual orientation. Increasingly, corporations are seeing the value of their employees working together in community toward a commonly held vision. They have a sense that the concepts of love and acceptance within a cultural context of care builds a sense of community that supports the work of the company and that has a direct impact on the bottom line.

Click [here](#) for full article.

OUR CORE VALUES

Solidarity with People in Need



Transformation



COMPASSION



Respect for Human Dignity



Justice and Peace

2022-2023 Focus

PUTTING COMPASSION INTO ACTION!

Support "The Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act"

All of us need support on the journey to adulthood. Youth experiencing homelessness have a particularly steep climb to adulthood. The federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) program prevents trafficking, identifies survivors, and provides housing and service options to youth in need.

Representatives Yarmuth (D-KY) and Bacon (R-NE) and Senators Leahy (D-VT) and Collins (R-ME) introduced the bipartisan and bicameral Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA) of 2022 (S.4916/H.R.8498). This legislation will comprehensively update and reauthorize the vital Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) (42 U.S.C. 5701 et. seq.) program. The Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2022 makes critical updates to the existing RHYA program, some include:

- Comprehensively addresses the needs of youth experiencing homelessness and youth survivors of trafficking
- Prevents human trafficking and chronic adult homelessness
- Adds nondiscrimination clause
- Authorizes waivers to program requirements in extraordinary circumstances, such as natural disasters, public health emergencies, or financial crisis
- Requires grantees to assist youth in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Authorizes over \$350M per year for RHYA services
- And more!

Now is the time for Congress to act to help our young people. No young person should experience homelessness in America.

Click [here](#) to learn more and to sign the petition!



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 2023

On Monday, January 16th our nation celebrates the life and teachings of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Click [here](#) to learn more about this amazing man.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 29- FEBRUARY 4, 2023

Catholic School statistics in the United States for the 2021-2022 school year are as follows:

- * There are 5,938 Catholic schools operating today
- * 4,765 of these are elementary schools, and 1,173 are secondary schools
- * Total enrollment in Catholic schools is 1,688,417
- * The highest enrollment is in elementary schools at 1,167,917 students
- * There are 520,500 students enrolled in secondary schools
- * There are 221 Catholic Colleges & Universities
- * They have a total enrollment of over 720,000

Learn more at the [National Catholic Education Association](#) and the [Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities](#)



Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities



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The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

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

Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry:

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