



Ralph Waldo Emerson.

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

Hope in the New Year

click [here](#) to hear more

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*



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.



GOD'S INVITATION TO ASK FOR HELP

By Thomas Griffin

Often times we convince ourselves that asking for help might mean that we are not willing to carry the cross that has been laid on our shoulders. I frequently tell myself that I should be able to handle everything that has been given to me. Sometimes I convince myself that admitting I need help means that I'm not strong or smart enough, or I'm not willing to do what God is asking of me. However, as I've learned, asking others for help and asking the Lord for aid are the two best pathways forward as we take up our cross.

Weaknesses and imperfections are taken up by Christ in his time in the desert so that our desert experiences become sanctified in the process. Christ wants us to know that we are never alone when we are in need of help and that asking for help unites us more to him.

The relationships with our friends, family members, and faith have continued to grow when we have relied on these relationships for more than just verbal encouragement. Viewing the concrete ways that God and loved ones have helped us allows us to be all right with asking for help and we become amazed by how good God is when we do so. This has made it easier to rely on God more when he reveals that remaining near to his son will supply all that we need.

Click [here](#) to read 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 2023 (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 2023 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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