



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



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### QUOTES OF THE MONTH

*"The Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles one has overcome while trying to succeed."*

Booker T. Washington

### CATHOLIC Q&A

Racism, Human Dignity and the Catholic Church

Click [here](#) to hear more

### INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

02/02: Presentation of the Lord - Catholic  
02/02: Imbolc/Candlemas - Neo-Pagan  
02/02: St. Brigid of Kildare - Christian  
02/03: St. Blaze Day - Christian  
02/03: Setsebun - Shinto  
02/14: St. Valentine's Day - Christian  
02/15: Nirvana Day - Buddhist  
02/24: St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist - Christian



### PUTTING "COMPASSION" INTO ACTION: Stop Forced Organ Harvesting

From Freedom United

The Did you know organs are being forcibly harvested from human beings?

It is shocking, but human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal and organ trafficking persist around the world, with primary victims being political prisoners, ethnic and religious minorities, and other vulnerable people. Organ trafficking hot spots include China, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Brazil, Nepal, the Philippines, Kosovo, Iran, and former Soviet states in eastern Europe.

Forced organ harvesting and organ trafficking are interlinked crimes where organs are taken from victims through coercion or without informed consent and sold illegally, often making their way into the organ tourism transplant market. This means unknowing tourists undergoing organ transplants abroad are at-risk of receiving organs linked to organ trafficking and forced organ harvesting.

Organ transplants can save lives, but we believe that organs must be donated ethically and with complete transparency. Unfortunately, that is not the reality for many countries where organ trafficking occurs, and it's high time for countries around the world to take a stand against organ transplant 'tourism' to these criminal hot spots.

Join our call, along with the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China, in pushing countries around the globe to step up and tackle the often-overlooked crimes of human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal and organ trafficking. Click [here](#) to learn more and to sign a petition.

**FREEDOM UNITED**  
ONE VOICE AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY

### THE ILLUSION OF SUCCESS

By Randy Hain

Our father and mother taught us about faith and the value of hard work. We knew how to be self-sufficient at a young age. Strong values and great life-lessons were instilled in us from my earliest childhood memories. So, is my father successful? By modern standards, a quick glance at his meager savings and lack of material possessions would merit a resounding no. But, in the areas that mattered most to him and my mother, they were incredibly blessed all their lives with everything they could ever desire.

You see, my parents never tried to keep up with the Joneses. Acquiring toys and wealth never mattered. They were focused on raising faith-filled children, helping us as much as possible with furthering our education, and teaching us how to be responsible. My father always wanted to talk about the kid's school and athletic achievements when I called him or find out how my book was selling. He rarely talked about himself and certainly never complained.

He comes from a generation that has much to teach us today. We can deceive ourselves all we want that today's world holds us to a different standard, but as I get older I recognize that we also have the ability to choose the lives we want to lead. The more I detach myself from modern society's view of success, the happier and more fulfilled I feel. This detachment allows me to put the appropriate focus on serving Christ and His Church, raising my children, loving my wife and giving back to others instead of accumulating toys that become false idols. I learned these invaluable lessons from my parents, especially my father.

The idea of success that many of us are taught at a young age is often an illusion that can create frustration, anxiety and years of wasted time as we wind up chasing something that may not be what we need or want as we continue to grow older. My father was wise enough to avoid this trap and he did his best to convey the lesson to me, although I must admit I spent several years in the quicksand of pursuing false success.

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

## FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### Six African American Catholics on the Road to Sainthood

#### Venerable Pierre Toussaint



Toussaint (1766-1853) was born into slavery in Haiti. He became a freeman, successful businessman and philanthropist in New York City. He is the only lay person honored, alongside cardinal-archbishops, with burial in the crypt of St. Patrick Cathedral. See more at: [www.obmny.org/venerable-pierre-toussaint](http://www.obmny.org/venerable-pierre-toussaint).

*"I have enough for myself, but if I stop work, I have not enough for others."*

#### Servant of God Mother Mary Lange



Mother Lange (1787-1882) co-founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore in 1829. Dedicated to the care and education of Black children, the Oblate Sisters of Providence is the first successful religious community for women of African descent. See more at: [www.motherlange.org](http://www.motherlange.org)

*"Our sole wish is to do the will of God."*

#### Venerable Mother Henriette DeLille



Mother Delille (1812-1862) was a free woman of color. Born in New Orleans, she founded the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1842. The congregation ministered to slaves at a time when educating slaves was illegal. Mother Delille was the first U. S.-born African American formally postulated for canonization. See more at [www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com](http://www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com).

*"I believe in God. I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God."*

## MODELS OF FAITH FOR US ALL

### Click here to learn how the sainthood process works in the Catholic Church

#### Servant of God Julia Greeley



Greeley (born between 1833-1848-died 1918) is known as Denver's Angel of Charity. She was born into slavery in Hannibal, Missouri, and entered the Catholic Church at Sacred Heart Parish in Denver in 1880. Every month, she visited on foot every fire station in Denver. See more at [www.juliagreeley.org](http://www.juliagreeley.org).

*"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."*

#### Venerable Father Augustus Tolton



Father Tolton (1854-1897) was born into slavery in Missouri. Ordained in Rome in 1886, he was the first recognized Black American priest. Pastor of St. Monica in Chicago, he became the spiritual leader of the 19th century National Black Catholic Congress movement. See more at: [tolton.archchicago.org/](http://tolton.archchicago.org/).

*"The Catholic Church deplores a double slavery - that of the mind and that of the body."*

#### Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman



Sister Thea (1937-1990) born in Canton, Mississippi, was a convert to Catholicism. At the age of 15, she moved to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, to join the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, where she became the only African-American member of the community. She became a highly acclaimed evangelizer, teacher, writer and singer, sharing the joy of the Gospel and her rich cultural heritage throughout the nation. See more at [www.sistertheabowman.com/](http://www.sistertheabowman.com/).

*"When you help some body, that's how you become big, that's how you leave the world a better place."*

#### CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



[www.villa.edu](http://www.villa.edu)

#### The Felician Sisters of Our Lady of Hope Province:

Click [here](#) for more information

#### The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

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

#### Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry:

Serving Staff & Students

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