



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



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QUOTES OF THE MONTH (For Women's History Month)

*"I raise up my voice - not so I can shout
but so that those without voices can be
heard... we cannot succeed when half of
us are held back."*

Malala Yousafzai

CATHOLIC Q&A

Teachings about Mary, the
Mother of Jesus

click [here](#) to hear more

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

click [here](#) for more information

03/01: Saint David of Wales - *Christian*
03/17: Saint Patrick's Day - *Christian*
03/19: Saint Joseph's Day - *Christian*
03/21: Norooz (New Year) - *Zoroastrian*
03/21: Naw-Ruz (New Year) - *Baha'i*
03/21: Ostara - *Neo-Pagan*
03/25: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary -
Christian
03/26: Khordad Sal - *Zoroastrian*
03/30: Magha Puja Day - *Buddhism*



PUTTING "COMPASSION" INTO ACTION!

Urge Congress to Support Nuclear Disarmament

From the Maryknoll Office of Global Concern

In a February 21 speech anticipating the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia is suspending participation in New START, the last remaining nuclear arms control treaty between Russia and the United States. This comes on the heels the January 24th announcement that the Doomsday Clock had been set to 90 seconds to midnight – closer to global catastrophe than at any time in the clock's 76-year history.

Other global developments further highlight the dire need for nuclear arms control and disarmament. On January 11, South Korea announced for the first time that it may pursue its own nuclear weapons if North Korean threats persist. Tensions between the United States and nuclear-armed China continue to escalate. And in a historic move, Japan has announced its largest military build-up since World War II. Elsewhere, talks between the United States and Iran aimed at salvaging the Iran nuclear deal have stalled, and tensions between Palestinians and nuclear-armed Israel have increased.

Ask your Representative to co-sponsor H. Res. 77, that calls on the United States to "embrace the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" and pursue the five policy proposals of the Back from the Brink campaign.

Click [here](#) to learn more about what you can do.



10 SIMPLE STEPS TO A SIGNIFICANT LIFE

by Rachael Adams

If we aren't careful, we can start to believe that who we are, where we are, and what we are doing doesn't really matter. However, nothing could be further from the truth. A significant life is actually simpler than you think. Here are 10 simple steps to a significant life.

Simply significant. You are inherently significant. The word inherent means a permanent characteristic or attribute that already exists. You were born with intrinsic value.

Say yes. "Yes" is a small three letter word, but it holds tremendous impact. When we say yes to God, the Holy Spirit resides in us and serves as our guide.

Do a little at a time. We can get overwhelmed by the size of the task in front of us. The key is to just begin and faithfully continue one step at a time.

Stop comparing. One of the main threats to undermining our life of significance is comparing what we are doing with other people.

Tangibly give love. The greatest commandment can be summarized in 5 little words: love God and love others. This is our common purpose and should be the lens with which we view every decision and interaction through.

Value every encounter. We were made for relationships, yet so many people are lonely and in need of companionship. You never know what kind of connection can develop and may continue years later.

Think positively. There is such power in something as seemingly small as our thoughts. If we think positively, this will affect our words, actions, habits, character, and eventually our destiny.

Extend grace. We aren't perfect on this journey and neither are the people in our lives. Try saying sorry, asking for forgiveness, and extending grace.

Be faithful in the small. God doesn't waste anything, in fact, He multiplies everything and is using it all in ways beyond what we can ask or imagine.

Trust God. Our effort won't always result in the outcome we anticipate or in the time line we hoped. This is where faith comes in. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

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

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Learn more about the four Women "Doctors" of the Catholic Church

What is a Doctor of the Church?

The term "Doctor of the Church" is a special and specific title bestowed on certain Saints who are deemed to have contributed significantly to the life of the Church, through understanding of Sacred Scripture and development of official Church doctrine.

There are currently 36 Doctors of the Church. While no one knows exactly how many canonized Saints there are (estimates place the number at over 10,000), the fact that there are only 36 Doctors makes them especially significant and worthy of our study and intercession!

How One Becomes a Doctor of the Church?

The process to become a Doctor of the Church is pretty straightforward. First of all, a person must be canonized a Saint, which is an entirely separate process from being deemed a Doctor of the Church.

Once a person is canonized a Saint, any of the faithful can recommend them to be recognized as a Doctor. First, the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith determines the veracity and theological soundness of the Saint's works. If the above criteria are met, the Saint is recommended to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints that presents possible cases to the Pope. The Holy Father ultimately bestows the title of Doctor of the Church on the Saints deemed worthy of the title.



St. Therese of Lisieux

Born in France in 1873, Therese is described by her mother as being a stubborn and feisty young girl. After a conversion at the age of 13, Therese became determined to enter the Carmelite order, but her bishop would not allow it. Undeterred, Therese petitioned Pope Leo XIII for permission. Her request was granted, and she entered life as a religious sister at age 15. Her life was dedicated to her "little way" of holiness - a way of serving Jesus by doing small acts of love.

Although she lived a life hidden from the world until her death at age 24, her spiritual autobiography *Story of Soul* became a bestseller after her death. She continues to inspire others to take on and live out her "little way." She was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1997.



St. Teresa of Avila

Born in 1515 in Avila, Spain, Teresa eventually became a Carmelite nun. She worked alongside St. John of the Cross (another Doctor of the Church) to reform the Carmelite order and return it to a life dedicated to contemplative prayer. She received a lot of criticism and persecution from the Church for her reformation efforts, which was hard for her to bear.

She was also a mystic and contributed many spiritual writings that continue to inspire people today, including her most notable, *The Interior Castle*. She was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970.



St. Catherine of Siena

Color me shocked to learn that this particular Doctor of the Church was, in fact, a layperson, not a religious sister! Catherine of Siena was born in Siena, Italy in 1343 and dedicated herself to God at a young age. She refused to get married, and lived with her parents in a cell-like room (similar to those occupied by nuns). As a "Third Order Dominican," St. Catherine was dedicated to prayer but also active in the outside world (unlike nuns, who are cloistered). St. Catherine is credited with convincing Pope Gregory XI to return the papacy to Rome from Avignon, where he lived. She was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970.

St. Hildegard of Bingen

St. Hildegard was born in Germany in 1098. Experiencing mystical visions from a young age, she joined a Benedictine order and became a superior. Described by Saint John Paul II as a "light for her people and her time," her life and writings were highly influential to the church. Pope Benedict XVI, who declared her a Doctor of the Church in 2015.

click [here](#) to learn more about the Women "Doctors" of the Catholic Church

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