



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



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BLESSED MARY ANGELA SAYS: (Foundress of the Felician Sisters)

"Certainly you ought to believe that the will of God placed you there where you are present."

CATHOLIC Q&A

What do Catholics believe about the dignity of work?

Click [here](#) for the answer

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

09/01: Religious year begins -

Orthodox Christians

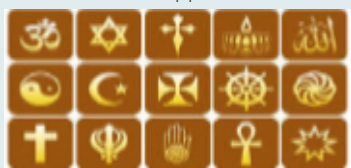
09/08: Nativity of Virgin Mary - Christian

09/11: Ethiopian New Year - Rastafarian

09/15-17: Rosh Hashanah - Judaism

09/23: Fall Equinox - Nature Religions

09/24-25: Yom Kippur - Judaism



WORK BRINGS US A GREAT GIFT

by Deacon Ed Zoblacki
of the Secular Franciscan Order

Let them esteem work as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption and service of the human community. (Art. 16)

A gift is not something we've earned or deserve, it comes to us, in part, to recognize that we are someone special just the way we are. And the gift - as a reflection of ourselves (how many times have you heard "This just reminded me of you"?) is something itself special, a bit mysterious, hidden in boxes and wrapping, concealed and waiting to be revealed.

In giving the gift of our work, we receive an invaluable gift in return. What is this gift? It is the gift of our self. Through our sweat and effort we develop the talents and capabilities we have been gifted with by our loving Creator. So much about our humanity is "potential" - needing to be realized. How helpless the human infant! And it is through play when we are younger and then work as we age that we continue to realize that potential - to become the persons that God intended us to be.

Work is a good thing for a person's humanity - because through work people not only transforms nature, adapting it to their own needs, but they also achieve fulfillment as a human being and indeed, in a sense, becomes "more a human being." The Holy Father takes his logic a step further to assert that the primary purpose of work is not what is objectively accomplished through human efforts - the making of a meal or the building of a bridge. Work's primary purpose is to help us realize our full humanity in all its dignity: "in the final analysis it is always man who is the purpose of the work, whatever work it is that is done by man."

We receive the gift of ourselves - we more fully realize our humanity - through our work. Our better and truer selves are the gift concealed, the gift revealed only gradually through the means of our work - through our effort of sharing "in the creation, redemption and service to the human community." It is a wonderful, awesome gift indeed! What work that you have done or are doing (for pay or as part of your everyday life) has helped you grow most as a person?

VILLA WELCOMES NEW CAMPUS MINISTER!

Villa Maria College is pleased to welcome Brother Jason Damon, OFM as our new campus minister. He is a native of South Wales, NY. He graduated from Iroquois High School and then from Saint Bonaventure University, majoring in history. This past semester he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Brother Jason was ordained a transitional deacon on August 27th and will be ordained a priest sometime in early 2024. He comes to us with various ministerial experiences during his formation including a year of working in the Campus Ministry office of Siena College in Albany NY. Welcome Brother Jason, we are so happy that you have joined us!

WELCOME TO THE NEW SEMESTER

Join us for:

Mass of the Holy Spirit, Thursday, September 14th at 11:15am in college chapel.

Interfaith Peace Prayer Service, Monday, September 11th at 11:15 am in front of staircase of the Main Building.

OUR CORE VALUES

Respect for
Human Dignity



Compassion



TRANSFORMATION



Solidarity with
People in Need



Justice
and Peace

2023-2024 Focus

PUTTING *TRANSFORMATION* INTO ACTION!

Ban Forced Labor in the United States

Passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, the 13th Amendment of the US Constitution aimed to abolish slavery, but in reality, the amendment allowed slavery to remain legal. Section 1 of the amendment reads:

“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

The “Exception Clause,” also known as the Punishment Clause, made it possible for slavery to be used as a method of punishment, allowing the government to legally subject people incarcerated across the United States to forced labor. But what is legal is not what is just. Inmates exposed to prison slavery or forced prison labor are coerced into working through the loss of privileges, visitations, good time earnings, commissary access or the threat of solitary confinement and even being tasered according to one lawsuit.

The United States must reckon with the injustices faced by incarcerated people borne out the Punishment Clause. At the same time, we recognize that this is a first step in tackling the myriad of other state and federal laws excluding incarcerated people from minimum wage and labor rights protection, as well as the need for the public and private sector to divest from facilities that subject incarcerated people to severe labor exploitation

Please click [here](#) to ask your legislators to pass legislation banning forced labor in the United States.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period. Click [here](#) to learn more.

ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, together referred to as “The High Holy Days,” are the two most important holidays of the Jewish year, the former celebrating the coming of the New Year and the creation of the world, the latter (ten days later) beginning the new year with a Day of Atonement for one’s wrongdoings. Synagogue services on these days are the most well attended of the year; they involve the blowing of the shofar (a ram’s horn), and, on Yom Kippur, a day of fasting.

The High Holy Days stand alongside the three festivals of Sukkot, Passover, and Shavuot as the five major festivals of the Jewish year during which one is commanded to lay aside work completely. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur fall in the lunar month called Tishrei. On the first and second days of the month, Rosh Hashanah celebrates the new year and the birthday of the world. Ten days later, Yom Kippur begins the new year with a Day of Atonement for one’s wrongdoings. The stretch between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is called “The Days of Awe,” a period of judgment and repentance, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal, of standing in awe before God. Click [here](#) to learn more.



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The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

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

Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry:

Shaniyah Jackson
Serving Staff & Students

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Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry

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