



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 4 Vol. 1 | September 4, 2023 | Student Edition

### 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 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

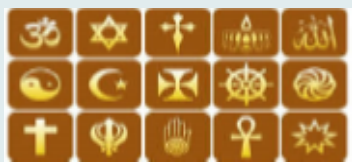
09/11: Ethiopian New Year -

Rastafarian

09/15-17: Rosh Hashanah - Judaism

09/23: Fall Equinox - Nature  
Religions

09/24-25: Yom Kippur - Judaism



### MAKING COLLEGE COUNT

*Five important questions that God-believing college students need to ask before and during college.*

By Derek Melleby

I've learned that if you don't take time to ask and wrestle with these questions now, you run the risk of others answering them for you when you get to campus. Cultivating an inquisitive mind is one of the most important skills you can learn in life. Learning to ask good questions and not settle for easy answers are habits and disciplines that need to be developed.

#### 1. What Kind of Person Do You Want to Become?

Do you desire to be wise, fair and honest - or foolish, unfair and crooked? Maybe you've thought about the kind of person you want to become but not about how to become that person. Every act, every decision, every thought will move you either a little closer to being that kind of person - or push you a little further away.

#### 2. What Do You Believe?

Your world-view will be challenged. Challenges will come as you make your way through college and beyond. Some will come from professors and textbooks, others from new friends and social experiences. My hope is that your beliefs remain central to what you believe about the world

#### 3. Who Are You?

On the journey to college, knowing you are a child of God and having your identity secure in him will make all the difference in the world. You are a child of God, completely known and completely loved by him. Your whole identity is not wrapped up in what you buy, what you do or achieve, or what you look like, and you do not have to worry about being accepted by everyone.

#### 4. With Whom Will You Surround Yourself?

Don't put off finding and committing to a campus ministry. Of course, it's never too late to find and join a religious campus group, but it gets harder to fit it into your schedule the longer you wait. So dive right in. Go to church. It is essential that you connect to the larger body of Christ. Intergenerational community is vital.

#### 5. How Do You Want Your Life to Influence Others?

As a college student, you have much to offer the community in which you live: energy, vision, time. What you learn in college has implications for the way you live in the world. The question is, what will you do with the things you are learning? Will you simply use your education to get a degree to get a better job for yourself? Or will you begin to make connections between your learning and how you live, in hopes that it will bring about positive transformation in society? Click [here](#) to read the full article.

### 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!

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 I 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.



### CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



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*Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry*

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