

# MISSION MATTERS monthly

Villa Maria No.

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Staff/BOT Edition

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

"Preserve among yourselves a unity, peace, love, and kindness. Practice towards one another gentleness, understanding and cooperation"

## CATHOLIC Q&A

What is a "Just War?"

Click <u>here</u> for the answer



INTERFAITH CALENDAR Click here for more information

11/01: All Saint's Day - Christians
11/02: All Soul's Day - Christian
11/12: Birth of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i
11/15: Nativity Fast ends - Orthodox Christian
11/21: Yule/Winter Solstice - Neo Pagan
11/24: Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahdur - Sikh
11/26: Day of the Covenant - Baha'i
11/28: Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha - Baha'i



# A NOVEMBER TO NOTE!

November 1-30: Native American Heritage Month click <u>here</u> for more information



November 11: Veteran's Day - click <u>here</u> to learn more



November 14-18: National Bible Week - Take the Bible Week Student Trivia Quiz - Win Prizes! Check your emails!



*November 16:* Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service at 11:15 am Recital Hall



*November 21:* Felician Sisters Founders Day, click <u>here</u> to learn more!



#### THE WORK/HOME CHALLENGE

By Fr. Dan McClellan, OFM The worlds of home and work are beginning to reverse places. We are used to thinking that home is where most people feel the most appreciated, the most truly "themselves," the most relaxed. We think of the work as the place where people feel like "just a number" or a "cog in the machine," where we are least secure and most hassled. In a new book The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work, sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild reports on the causes of this reversal.

Family life is under increasing stress. Most families have two income earners to get by. Kids are left on their own and succumb to the pressure of an antifamily culture. The changing status of women has left men and women struggling to understand each other and their respective roles. And the work of the home has to be done with less available time. And the support system of extended family and neighbors has given way to the pursuit of economic gain leading many to relocate where this network of support is missing.

Conversely, the workplace has changed dramatically, as the ideas of management gurus have been implemented by companies to be able to survive in a fiercely competitive global marketplace. The lure of the workplace has been enhanced by company cultural engineering tools like Total Quality. Employees are given more responsibility, work together in supportive groups, and receive recognition for their individual and collective accomplishments. Works speak of belonging to the corporate family and proudly wear t-shirts and pins marking the accomplishments of their team, symbols of their corporate loyalty.

Franciscan Wisdom on Work: "Life is to live and life is to give and talents are to use for good if you choose. Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for power equal to your tasks -- then the doing of your work shall be no miracle but you shall be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself ...at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God. " Venerable Solanus Casey, OFM Cap.

# OUR CORE VALUES -----

Respect for Human Dignity

Compassion

TRANSFORMATION

Solidarity with People in Need Justice and Peace

2023-2024 Focus

### TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY -A VILLA COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE: St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

by Matthw Helminski, Class of '25, PTA

Last This organization was founded by Amy Betros who is from Yugoslavia and Norm Paolini who is from Buffalo, NY. A glimpse of history on Amy, is she owned a restaurant in Yugoslavia which she served customers and in the back door, she would feed the homeless and less fortunate. She wanted to make sure, that no one was left without a meal and go hungry. In her suburban home, she would open up her doors to prostitutes, the homeless, the mentally ill and addicts. She would feed and clothe them as well. Norm also was on fire for the Lord and wanted to carryout good works for the Lord. While on a pilgrimage trip, God had placed the both of them in the right place at the right time, so the both of them would meet each other. This would lead to a lifelong friendship between the both of them. At this time, the both of them had shared their visions and they were determined to make it happen. Amy had sold her restaurant and used her finances, along with Norm who had taken an early retirement. They had also raised money, so that their dream would become reality. Both of these individuals had one mission in mind and soon doors began to open for Amy and Norm. God had used Bishop Grosz, to inform both Amy and Norm that the St. Luke's Church was for sale at the time. With the assistance of Bishop Grosz and the Lord, it had all fallen into place and soon the St. Luke's Mission of Mercy organization was born on August 1st, 1994. Their mission statement of meeting the needs of the less fortunate and spreading the good news of Jesus, has positively impacted the lives of many. They are still continuing to meet the basic needs of all human beings by providing food, clothing, love and support. We also have Villa Maria College students, volunteering their time on the first Friday of each month. During this time, students assist in the packaging of both lunch and dinner meals, which will be distributed to the community. They also offer their help where needed. Through the generous support of volunteers, they are distributing an average of 2,000 meals per day. Volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated. The address of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy is located at 325 Walden Ave, Buffalo, NY 14221.

https://www.stlukesmissionofmercy.org/



THANKSGIVING, NOVEMBER 23, 2023 Prayers of Thanksgiving

<u>Baha'i:</u> O Thou kind Lord! This gathering is turning to Thee. These hearts are radiant with Thy love. These minds and spirits are exhilarated by the message of thy glad tidings. Confirm this revered nation to upraise the standard of the oneness of humanity, to promulgate the Greatest Peace, to become thereby most glorious and praiseworthy among all the nations of the world. Make it precious and near to Thee through Thy bounty and bestowal.

<u>Buddhism:</u> Expressions of gratitude to repay the kindness of the Buddhas whose words open the door to liberation, to our mothers for their boundless love, and to our enemies for assisting us in developing patience: What way is there to repay the Buddha who grant immeasurable benefit and who befriends the world without pretension other than by pleasing sentient beings?

<u>Christianity:</u> Father all-powerful, your gifts of love are countless and your goodness infinite; as we come before you on Thanksgiving Day with gratitude for your kindness, open our hearts to have concern for every man, woman, and child, so that we may share your gifts in loving service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

<u>Islam:</u> Praise be to Allah who created us from His light with His hand and dignified us over His creatures and made us trustees of His creation and His revelation. The command of Allah has come, do not rush it. Glory be to Him; exalted above what they associate. Allah is with those who are righteous and those who are virtuous.

<u>Judaism:</u> We thank You that You are Adonai our God and God of our ancestors throughout all time. You are the Rock of our lives, the Shield of our salvation in every generation. We thank you and speak your praises for our lives that are in Your hand, for our souls that are in Your charge, for Your miracles that are with us, and for Your wonders and Your gifts that are with us at all times—evening, morning, and noon.

<u>Native American:</u> Great and Eternal Mystery of Life, Creator of All Things, I give thanks for the beauty You put in every single one of Your creations. I am grateful that You did not fail in making every stone, plant, creature, and human being a perfect and whole part of the Sacred Hoop. I am grateful that You have allowed me to see the strength and beauty of All My Relations.



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www.villa.edu

The Felician Sisters of Our Lady of Hope Province:

Click <u>here</u> for more information

The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

Click <u>here</u> for more information and resources

#### Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry:

Serving Staff & Students sjackson@smjosettefoodpantry.org

716-361-9404



Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry

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