



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



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

"A community spirit does not happen of itself. It flows from people who share a common tradition and strive for a common goal outside themselves."

CATHOLIC Q&A

Hope in the New Year
from Fr. Mike Schmitz.

Click [here](#) for the answer

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

01/01: Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian
01/01: Feast Day of St. Basil - Orthodox Christian
01/01: Shogatsu/Gantan-sai (New Year) - Sikh
01/05: Guru Gobindh Singh birth - Sikh
01/06: Epiphany - Christian
01/07: Feast of the Nativity - Orthodox Christian
01/08: Feast of the Holy Family - Catholic Christian
01/13: Maghi - Sikh
01/18: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
01/30: Mahayana New Year - Buddhism

ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

By: Fr. James Loughran, SA

Graymoor Ecumenical & Inter religious Institute is pleased to announce the international scriptural theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18 – 25, 2024: "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

This year's theme comes through the combined efforts of the Pontifical Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, the World Council of Churches and the Christian churches of Burkina Faso. Much of the coordination of this ecumenical project was done by the community of Chemin Neuf, a French Catholic and ecumenical community of vowed and lay people, particularly through their local community in Burkina Faso, a country in the Sahel region of West Africa.

Luke 10:25-37 tells the story of how Jesus is asked by a lawyer, "What must I do to inherit everlasting life?" and Jesus responds, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" The lawyer responds, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Then Jesus says to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But then in order to justify himself, the lawyer says, "And who is my neighbor?" which leads Jesus to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan.

It is a theme rich in charity, mercy, justice and unity. We hope it will facilitate powerful ecumenical prayer and homilies in the 2024 commemoration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Click [here](#) to learn more.



How to Make Realistic New Year's Resolutions

Here are seven ways to turn this year into your best year yet.

By Jennifer E. Jones

New Year, New You

A new year gives us all the opportunity to make changes in our lives. However, so often January 1 comes, and we are no better off than we were last year (with little to no resolve to make things better). Every year I make New Year's resolutions, and I am dedicated to making them come true in the 12 months allotted. Sometimes I make it; sometimes I don't. However, I believe that it's always worth trying. You can make New Year's resolutions that not only stick but are attainable. Here are seven ways to turn this year into your best year yet.

Think about Last Year

Reflecting on the mistakes and mishaps of last year is a good place to start when making New Year's resolutions

Write It Down

"Write the vision and make it plain..." Habakkuk 2:2. I don't know about you, but for me, nothing gets done unless it's written down.

Don't Try to Do It All in January

Poor, poor January. We pin all our hopes on those first 31 days.

From Big Goals to Baby Steps

Break big goals down into smaller increments.

Get a Little Help from Your Friends

Reach out and ask for the support you need. It can be a bonding experience you'll never forget.

Identify Time-wasters

Identify the time-wasters in your day and replace them with projects and tasks that will bring you closer to your goal.

Sometimes a Year is Not Enough

Give yourself some grace. You've laid the groundwork to achieving your dreams, and you can take the next year to perfect them. Learn from the previous year's mistakes and grow. Every year is another chance to get it right.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

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:

Little Portion Friary

The Little Portion Friary was started in 1982 when Deacon John G. and the Rev. Alexius realized that homeless men and women needed a homelike setting and a sense of personal involvement with individuals who cared about them.

They envisioned a setting in which people from all walks of life would bring their talents and gifts, working anonymously and quietly, to help those in need. As they shared their vision and passion for this work, others responded. The Sisters of St. Francis, for example, provided furniture, bedding, and willing workers. Family members, co-workers, church groups and others responded generously. The Diocese of Buffalo provided the building, first as a rental and ultimately for a nominal selling price.

The name comes from the early history of the Franciscans. In the 13th century, St. Francis of Assisi, wishing to own nothing in this world, yet needing, a home for his growing community of friars, leased a little church called St. Mary of the Portiuncula, which literally means Little Portion.

To Francis, the name represented the poverty, humility, and simplicity that he wished for himself and his followers. For Buffalo's Little Portion, the name reflects a commitment to St. Francis' ideals and hope of allowing our lives, in little ways to touch and be touched by the lives of others.

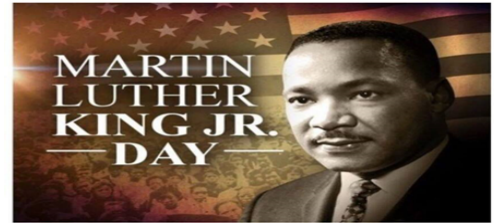
From the beginning, the endeavor has been blessed by those eager to serve and to share. Some have come to clean and to paint. Others donate time to do paperwork, to greet guests at the door, to cook meals, to do laundry. Often donors have arrived at the door with exactly what was needed.

With over 35 years, the Little Portion Friary continues to bring together workers, donors, and guest in an effort to meet the basic needs for food, shelter, and clothing, but also to see that each guest takes his or her own steps toward a more stable life. Click [here](#) to go to their website.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 2024

On Monday, January 15th our nation celebrates the life and teachings of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Click [here](#) to learn more about this amazing man.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 28- FEBRUARY 3, 2024

Catholic School statistics in the United States for the 2022-2023 school year are as follows:

- *There are 5,920 Catholic schools operating today
- *4,746 of these are elementary schools, and 1,174 are secondary schools
- *Total enrollment in Catholic schools is 1,693,417
- *The highest enrollment is in elementary schools at 1,174,744 students
- *There are 521,749 students enrolled in secondary schools
- *There are 230 Catholic Colleges & Universities
- *They have a total enrollment of over 700,000

Learn more at the [National Catholic Education Association](#) and the [Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities](#)



CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



www.villa.edu

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER:

Alissa Kowalski,
Director of Student Success
studentsuccess@villa.edu
716-961-1832

THE CARE CENTER:

Kasha LeBron,
Director of the Care Center
counseling@villa.edu
716-961-1821

SISTER MARY JOSETTE FOOD PANTRY:

Shaniyah Jackson,
Food Pantry Supervisor
716-361-9404



Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry

240 Pine Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14225