



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



No. 4 Vol. 8 | April 1, 2024 | Staff/BOT Edition

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

“Never look for self in anything but always seek the glory of God and the good of your neighbor.”

CATHOLIC Q&A

What does the Church say about the environment?

Click [here](#) for the answer

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

- 04/14: Baisakhi - Sikh
- 04/16: Theravadin New Year - Buddhism
- 04/21: First day of Ridvan - Baha'i
- 04/23: St. George's Day - Christian
- 04/25: St. Mark, Apostle - Christian
- 04/29: Ninth Day of Ridvan - Baha'i
- 04/30: St. James the Great - Orthodox Christian



Retreat Day Set for May 23

Please reserve the date Thursday, May 23 for a day of renewal and reflection as the Campus Ministry/ Mission Office sponsors a retreat for the administration, staff, faculty and members of the Board of Trustees at the Center of Renewal at Stella Niagara just outside of Lewiston NY. The retreat will be led by our campus minister, Brother Jason Damon, OFM and will center on our core value focus for this year, "transformation." Join us for discussions, worship and communing with nature. We will leave campus that day in the college vans at 9:15 am. The retreat will include lunch. We will depart the retreat center at 3:00 pm and return to campus. There is no charge to participate in this event. Watch for more details coming soon. All are welcome!



Retreat & Conference Center
STELLA NIAGARA • LEWISTON NY

Other upcoming events:

- * Easter Season Mass at 11:15am in college chapel.
- * Field Trip to the Abbey of the Genesee on Friday, April 19 (contact monnind@villa.edu for more details)
- * Earth Day Interfaith Prayer Service on Monday, April 22 at 11:15 am outside in front of the Main Building.

Reflections on a Spirituality of Work

by William L. Droel & George F. Augustine

People must realize that their daily work is the primary means by which they help bring about the kingdom of God. Any spirituality which detracts or distracts from work is therefore counterproductive.

In the final sentences of his encyclical On Human Work, Pope John Paul II wrote: "Let the Christian who listens to the living word of God, uniting work with prayer, know the place work has not only in earthly progress but also in the development of the kingdom of God, to which we are called through the power of the Holy Spirit and through the word of the gospel."

There are two important ideas in the pope's teaching on work. First, he elevates work united with prayer to a key place in both the temporal world and the kingdom of God. Work is not mere toil. It is not the punishment for Adam and Eve's sin, but rather an essential element in salvation. Work contributes not only to material well-being but also to the holy kingdom of God.

Second, since we are all called to work in the process of building the kingdom, then work cannot be limited merely to paid employment. All activity which helps build the kingdom is work: on the job, with the family, and in the community. And the value of all work is to be judged not by its monetary remuneration but by its contribution to building the kingdom.

Daily work can unite the sacred and the secular in genuine Christian spirituality. Such a spirituality requires that the world be regarded as proper home to be sustained, improved and completed. The older view of the world as a source of trial and temptation to be overcome, must be replaced by one that sees the world as an incarnation of the love of God.

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: GRERAD PLACE

Gerard Place first opened its doors in 2000, the culmination of the work of twelve Congregations of Women Religious in the Diocese of Buffalo. The congregations created and sponsored Gerard Place on the grounds of the former St. Gerard's Parish, located in the Bailey-Delavan neighborhood of Buffalo. Gerard Place is dedicated to improving the lives of people striving to break the cycle of poverty in their lives. Gerard Place provides housing for homeless single parents and their families and empowers those parents through education, employment, vocational training, life skills classes and counseling.

Our core values are: Compassion, Reverence, Integrity and Collaboration.

Gerard Place's supportive services for homeless mothers and their children has been highly successful. Among families served, over 90% have transitioned to independent housing and have not returned to homelessness. This is a result of the intensive and individualized supportive services available at Gerard Place.

In response to the high need for family support throughout our community, Gerard Place is expanding services into the community with the Gerard Place Community Center. The Community Center brings education and job readiness training into the neighborhood as well as quality childcare.

Gerard Place strengthens the community as it empowers individuals and families toward self-sufficiency by providing housing, supportive services, community education and outreach. By taking a human-centered approach, Gerard Place empowers those in need by providing the tools, support and safe haven needed on a journey to achieve life goals.

Villa Maria College has sent personnel to assist at Gerard Place on a number of occasions including painting a striking mural on the outside of one of their buildings. Click [here](#) to learn more.



PRAYERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT EARTH DAY, APRIL 22, 2024

from religionsforpeace.org

Buddhism: Even as a mother protects with her life, her child, her only child, so with a boundless heart Should one cherish all living beings, Radiating kindness over the entire world, Spreading upwards to the skies, And downwards to the depths. ~ Metta Sutta

Christianity: Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ~Matthew 6:28

Hinduism: Even if there is only one tree full of flowers and fruit in a village, that place becomes worthy of worship and respect. ~Mahabharata, Adiparra, 138:25

Indigenous Native American: Earth teach me stillness as the grasses are stilled with light. Earth teach me suffering as old stones suffer with memory. Earth teach me humility as blossoms are humble with beginning. Earth teach me caring as the mother who secures her young. ~ Ute Prayer

Islam: Do not cut down a tree, do not abuse a river, do not harm animals, and be always kind and humane to God's creation, even to your enemies. ~ Abu-Baker

Jainism: One who disregards the existence of earth, air, fire, water, and vegetation Disregards his or her own existence which is entwined with them. ~ Mahavir

Judaism: But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; In the Lord's hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all humankind. ~ Job 12:7-10

Sikhism: God created night and day, seasons, time, and occasions. So also, air, water, fire, and nether regions. Amidst these has God fixed the earth, the place for Righteous Activities. ~ Guru Granth Sahib

Taoism: Heaven cannot but be high. Earth cannot but be broad. The sun and moon cannot but revolve. All creation cannot but flourish. To do so is their Tao. ~ Chuang Tze

Shintoism: Our gratitude, love, and responsibility within a living nature should not be avoided. Seeing a forest as merely an object of economic activity is a kind of trafficking in flesh, an injustice, a crime. ~ Shoroku Shinto Yamatoyama

CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



www.villa.edu

The Felician Sisters of Our Lady of Hope Province:

Click [here](#) for more
information

The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

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

Sister Mary Josette Food Pantry:

Serving Staff & Students
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Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry

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