



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 4 Vol. 8 | April 1, 2024 | Student 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

### Free Field Trip to the Abbey of the Genesee!

Have you ever had Monk's Bread? The area staple found at Wegmans and Tops was started by Trappist Monks of the Abbey of the Genesee, and we're excited to announce a trip there on Friday, April 19th. We'll have lunch together in the Campus Ministry Office before driving out to the monastery to join the monks for prayer in the beautiful Abbey Church and to hear from one of them about his life and vocation. Every one is welcomed! Lunch and transportation will be provided for FREE! We'll leave Villa at 12pm and return after 4pm. Contact Dr. Monnin ([monnind@villa.edu](mailto:monnind@villa.edu)) or Br. Jason ([jdamon@villa.edu](mailto:jdamon@villa.edu)) for further questions and to reserve your spot.



### Earth Day Interfaith Prayer Service, Monday April 22 at 11:15 am outside in front of the Main Building



### The Significance of Spring

By Guy Finley

**Question:** What is the message in any particular season – spring, for example?

**Answer:** Spring is as spring does; it makes its appointed round in the time of (the star system) Aquarius, the water bearer — bringing with it what the late summer seeds need to start the process of awakening from their winter slumber. The latent forces in these seeds become active, and new forms of life spring forth because the waters they need to thrive and survive are present. This seasonal surge moves into and through us in much the same way. We feel not only the need to make a fresh start, but we're also provided the energies needed to do so. The stirring we feel to break out of the "earth" of our old patterns, to reach higher, comes to us from on high; thus realized, we are empowered to succeed by a Life that may encounter obstacles, but that cannot be stopped.

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



Spring Season Liturgy on Wednesday, April 17 at 11:15 am in college chapel. All are welcome!

## 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: GERARD 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](http://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:



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*Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry*

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