



MISSION MATTERS

monthly



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Staff/BOT Edition

Blessed Mary Angela Says (Foundress of the Felician Sisters)

"Idle words cause the mind to become distracted; they cause the mind to be weakened and unable to achieve inner composure."

CATHOLIC Q&A

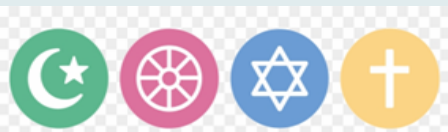
Praying for a
Miracle?

Click [here](#) to learn
more.

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

01/01: Feast of Mary, Mother of God - *Christian*
01/05: Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib - *Sikh*
01/05: Epiphany - *Christian*
01/07: Christmas - *Orthodox Christians*
01/14: New Year - *Hindu*
01/26: Bodhi Day - *Buddhist*



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18-25, 2026

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 is taken from Ephesians 4:4, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." These words of St. Paul see the unity of the community of believers as a vocation, a calling by the Holy Spirit. This requires conversion of heart, which is not possible without openness to reconciliation. This unity is linked to one hope and practiced in communal support, by embracing diversity while maintaining communion.

This also means accepting the diversity of gifts exercised in ministry, the goal of which is building up unity for the whole. "And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (4:11-12). This unity is guided by a mutual search for truth in a spirit of communal love. "Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love." (4:15-16)

It is in Ephesians 4 that Paul emphasizes the seven "unities" of the Church: Spirit, hope; one Lord, faith, and baptism; and the one God (4:4-6) Click [here](#) for full article.



A New Year, A New You

by Bob Burckle

The beginning of a new year creates a special excitement and expectation of hope for a better future. It is cathartic and liberating to review and reflect on the past year as we commit ourselves to a better new year and better life. We have all made New Year's resolutions – eat healthy, exercise more, become organized, save more money, spend intentional time with family and friends, reduce time on social media, dwell in the Bible regularly, etc. We all want to improve our lives, and the new year gives us an excuse and permission to begin. As believers, what are some ways we can honor God with our active resolutions?

Expect the best in your fresh start, knowing that God is good. In humility, ask Him to bless you, to help you when you are weak and to give you grace in moments when you need to start over. Oftentimes when we fail, we become downtrodden and discouraged from pressing on. Simply asking God to bless us and help us in our active and intentional renewal of mind, heart and soul sets us up for baseline success.

Even in our weakest moments, God is with us, helping us. 1 Corinthians 10:13 reminds us that God, in His immense grace, provides a way out for us when we are tempted beyond what we are able to bear. In this season of life, today, make it a point to turn to the Lord, asking Him for strength. We always need His strength – and He is willing to give it to us.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:29-30

Click [here](#) for full article.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2026

OUR CORE VALUES

*Respect for
Human Dignity*

Compassion

**JUSTICE
AND PEACE**

Transformation

*Solidarity with
People in Need*

2025-2026 Focus

Putting Justice & Peace Into Action

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

As Felician Sisters of North America affirm the dignity of all persons and denounce the sin of human trafficking and the structural, economic and social systems that support it. We will continually examine our complicity as consumers and support slave-free companies and products as much as possible, support policies and programs to help abolish and prevent trafficking and use our ministerial resources to aid survivors where possible.

In the spirit of our beloved Foundress Blessed Mary Angela, we serve as instruments of justice and peace, working on behalf of all God's people who are victims of injustice and violence today. The work of justice and peace is integral to who we are and inherent in our charism, vision, and mission. We stand with and advocate for those without a voice in our society—the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, and the vulnerable—to help restore the human dignity and rights of all God's people. We invite you to learn about these issues and partner with us in taking action to promote justice and peace.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day is January 11th. We encourage ministries to participate in #WearBlueDay to promote awareness around human trafficking.

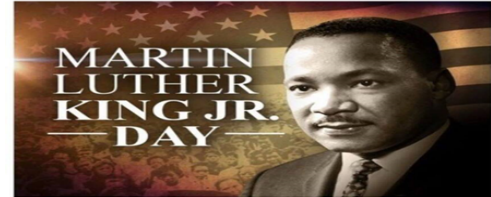


Trafficking Survivors Relief Act

Last Monday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 4323, the bipartisan Trafficking Survivors Relief Act. This bill provides federal criminal record relief to survivors of human trafficking who committed non-violent offenses as a direct result of their exploitation. Please click [here](#) to urge your Senators to pass this bill before the year's end.

MARTIN LUTER KING JR DAY - JANUARY 19

On Monday, January 19th 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 18 - 25, 2026

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

- *There are 5,852 Pre-K-12 Catholic schools operating today
- *Total enrollment in Catholic schools is 1,683,506
- *Located in Urban areas: 2,271
- *Located in Suburban areas: 2,394
- *Located in Rural areas: 1,182
- *There are 230 Catholic Colleges & Universities
- *They have a total enrollment of over 675,000

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



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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

Felician Community Services - Food Pantry:

Serving Staff & Students

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716-961-2860



Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry

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