

Buzz Report

Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry



January 2021

From the Desk of Sr. Kathy...

Dear Friends:

I don't know about you, but my attitude after the Christmas season always seems to need a jolt. The liturgical readings during the Advent and Christmas season are so beautiful and the decorations around the office and our home are so meaningful and spiritually uplifting. The notion of getting back to the way things were before Christmas becomes a true challenge for me.

The Christmas season officially ends with the Baptism of the Lord and we return to "Ordinary Time." Can we call anything today, post Covid 19, ordinary? The way we used to minister, socialize, shop, eat, pray seems to have completely changed. I think we will have to continue to be people of faith, hope and love as we journey on this road of life. I was reading an article about New Year's Resolutions, and one person shared that she wasn't going to investigate the latest diet to try. She was going to truly put much effort into "Connecting" with others as best she can this year. I thought that might be a good way to approach 2021. Once a vaccine is widely done, connect more with others. Even before a vaccine is given out more widely, connect more with co-workers, family and friends. Perhaps a smile or a phone call or a compliment is just what a person needs.

Let's try to do our best and rely on our faith, our relationship with Jesus and our prayer life to truly experience life as God desires. A dear friend gave me a gift last year which states: "Faith first, Family second and Football third. Obviously she knows me well. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Sister Kathy, OSF



Global News

The Holy Father and Martin Luther King United in the Same Dream

As you can well imagine, part of my ministry is keeping abreast of church news as well as non-church news. Last June and shortly after the brutal killing of George Floyd, the importance of peace and justice became even more primary in many minds. I recall reading in the daily Vatican news, *La'Osservatore Romano*, edition June 26, 2020, the meeting between our Holy Father, Francis, and Bernice Albertine King, daughter of Martin Luther King. The meeting occurred the day after the African

American community celebrated 'Juneteenth', the day that recalls the end of slavery. It was on June 19th in 1865 that Union Soldiers arrived in Galveston, TX, declaring the end of the Civil War. Referred to by millions of African Americans as 'Freedom Day.'

I think reading this article might be a good reflection for all of us on the continual need to confront systemic and institutional racism wherever it occurs in the world. I give thanks to our Roman Pontiff for being willing to speak out for the rights of each person because of one's inherent dignity. Please take time to read the article listed here, and may we all pray for an end to injustice and violence. Let us thank God for people such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Bernice King for living out the Dream and being proactive in the midst of suffering. I hope you are able to take part at least in some virtual celebrations of MLK Day on January 18.

[Read the article here.](#)

(Photo from L'Osservatore Romano, June 26, 2020)



National News

March for Life

Each year, we are reminded of the need to speak out for the most vulnerable in our society, the unborn. The national March for Life in Washington, DC is the largest annual and most peaceful demonstration in our country. The event will take place on January 29, 2021. The theme for this year is "***Together Strong: Life Unites.***"

During the past and present year of global pandemic, abortion and national unrest due to the abuse of one's personhood especially among our brothers and sisters of color, may we pray and remember those who will be traveling this month to DC. May each remain safe and healthy.

For information on March for life activities, contact your parish or visit

<https://charlestdiocese.org/respect-life/>

For more information about the national plans visit [National March for Life - March for Life](#)

(photo courtesy of March for Life)



January is a Month of Important Causes

Poverty Awareness Month

January is national **Poverty Awareness Month**, a time to learn more about the pains of living in poverty and what we can do to help individuals and families struggling to survive. While poverty has always been a part of our culture, there are more people in the U.S. in poverty now because of the coronavirus pandemic. This [video](#) shows you how the web of poverty connects to everything we do.

Human Trafficking Prevention Month

This January marks the 10th anniversary of Human Trafficking Prevention Month. To update yourselves on the latest facts about what Pope Francis called “modern day slavery” and for prayers and resources, check out this [tool kit](#) prepared by the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking.



JANUARY

A MONTH OF IMPORTANT CAUSES

Local News

FREE Online Webinar "Relying on the Peace of God in Anxious Times" -- Sr. Kathy Adamski, Panelist

The office Spirituality and Formation for Ministry, in conjunction with Renew International, is offering a free online webinar on finding peace in anxious times on January 27, 2020 at 7 p.m.

These are anxious and stressful times. We are burdened by heightened insecurity, isolation, loss and generalized anxiety and fear. Where can we find healing, peace and renewed hope? **"Finding the Peace of God in Anxious Times"** is a practical webinar to help us lean on our faith to cope and find peace and healing. Panelists include Dr. Gregory Popcak, author of almost 20 popular books and programs integrating solid Catholic theology and counseling psychology; Sr. Terry Rickard, OP, President of RENEW International; and Sr. Kathleen Adamski, OSF, Associate Director of the Office of Spirituality and Formation Ministry for the Diocese of Charleston.

Please join us for this important and timely webinar, which will offer an opportunity to engage and ask questions of the panelists. [Click here to register.](#)



Upcoming Cycle of Courses for University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

The Diocese of Charleston continues to partner with the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation to offer continuing education courses. **Tuition assistance is available for Diocese of Charleston parish staff members!** For more information please contact Sr. Kathy Adamski, OSF.

(843) 261.0498 or kadamski@charlestonepiscopal.org.

Registration for Cycle Two of 2021 opened January 6 and runs through February 17. Classes for Cycle Two begin on February 21.

To View the Course Offerings please visit: <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/>



CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME - Facilitated by Sr. Pamela Smith, SSCM

Online book launch and webinar of the new guidebook jointly published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers, and Catholic Climate Covenant. **January 25 11:00 a.m. to Noon EST**

[Click here to register.](#)



Formation Resources

Online Bible Study Offered for Free by Mundelein Seminary

[PDF resources](#) from all four sessions are now available! Each resource page includes scripture passages, reflection questions, and spiritual exercises.



MUNDELEIN SEMINARY

Book & Video of the Month

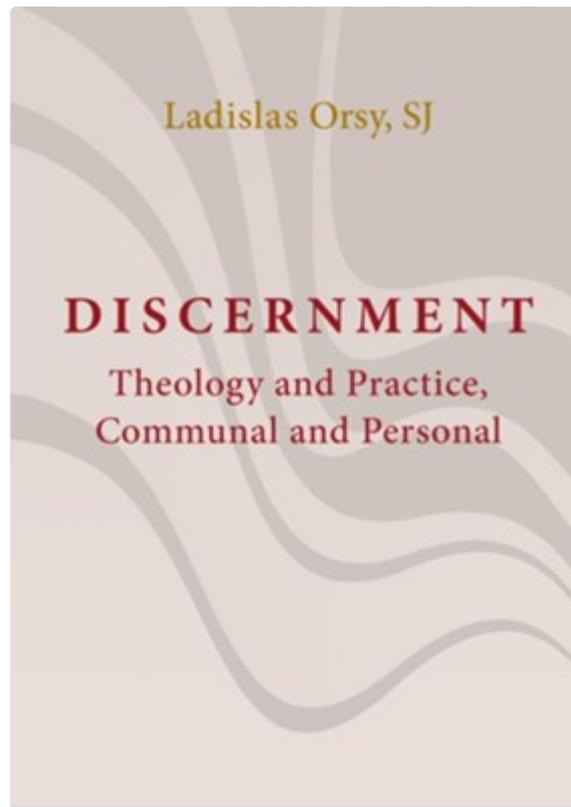
"Discernment: Theology and Practice, Communal and Personal by Ladislav Orsy, SJ

Pope Francis has said, "Discernment is a choice of courage." In this little wisdom book, Professor Ladislav Orsy shows contemporary readers a well-tested way to listen to the Holy Spirit within and among us as well as offering a way of navigating life's questions through communal discernment. Community discernment is the discovery of a gift by another gift: the discovery of God's plan for the community through the light of faith infused into the minds of its members.

While this text was originally written for Jesuits living in community to help them to live God's calling, the principles of Ignatian spirituality outlined here have broad application beyond such a setting today. As such it is:

- Rooted in history but not a history of discernment
- Theological but not a doctrinal treatise
- Practical but not a how-to manual
- Spiritual but does not belong to any specific school of thought.
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Succinct and very readable, this book contains a collection of insights suitable for both individual and group discernment exercises.

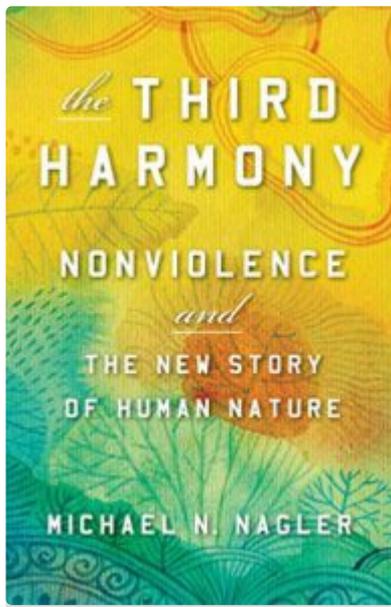


Faith In Action: The Third Harmony

A documentary, *The Third Harmony* tells the story of nonviolence, humanity's greatest (and most overlooked) resource.

The film's impact will be enhanced by the already-released book, *The Third Harmony: Nonviolence and the New Story of Human Nature* (Berrett-Koehler, 2020) and a board game, *Cosmic Peaceforce: Mission Harmony Three*, all available at the [Metta Center for Nonviolence](#).

Click [here](#) for more information.



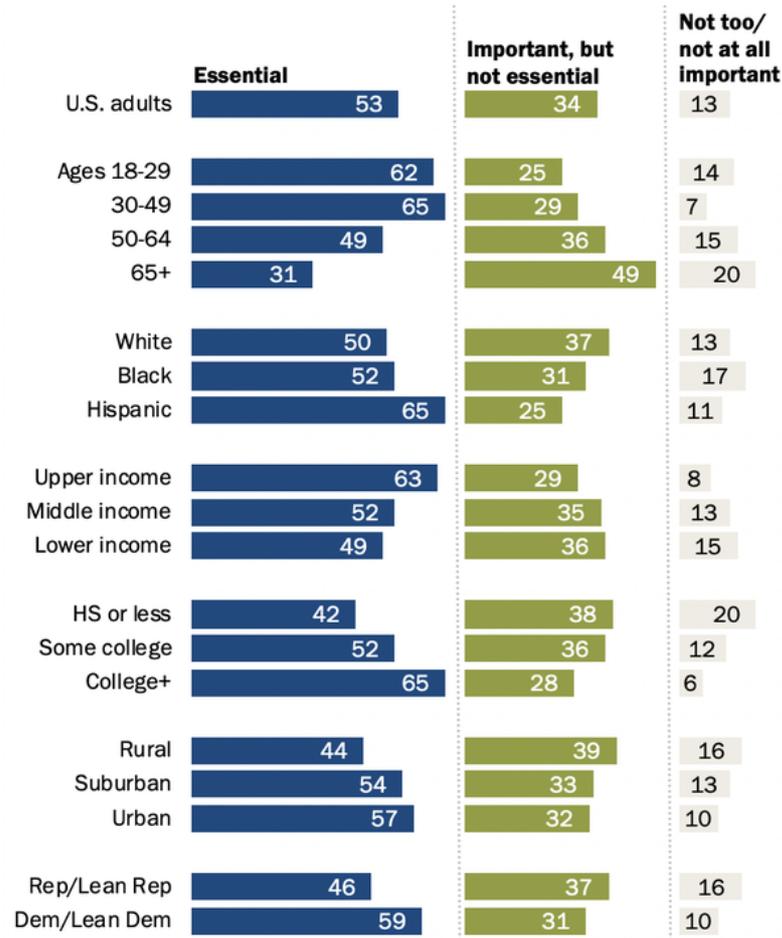
Factoid

Pew Research



Hispanic adults, college graduates and adults under 50 are especially likely to say the internet has been essential during the coronavirus outbreak

% of U.S. adults who say the internet has been ___ for them personally during the coronavirus outbreak



Note: White and black adults include only those who are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2018 earnings. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 7-12, 2020.

"53% of Americans Say the Internet Has Been Essential During the COVID-19 Outbreak"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



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