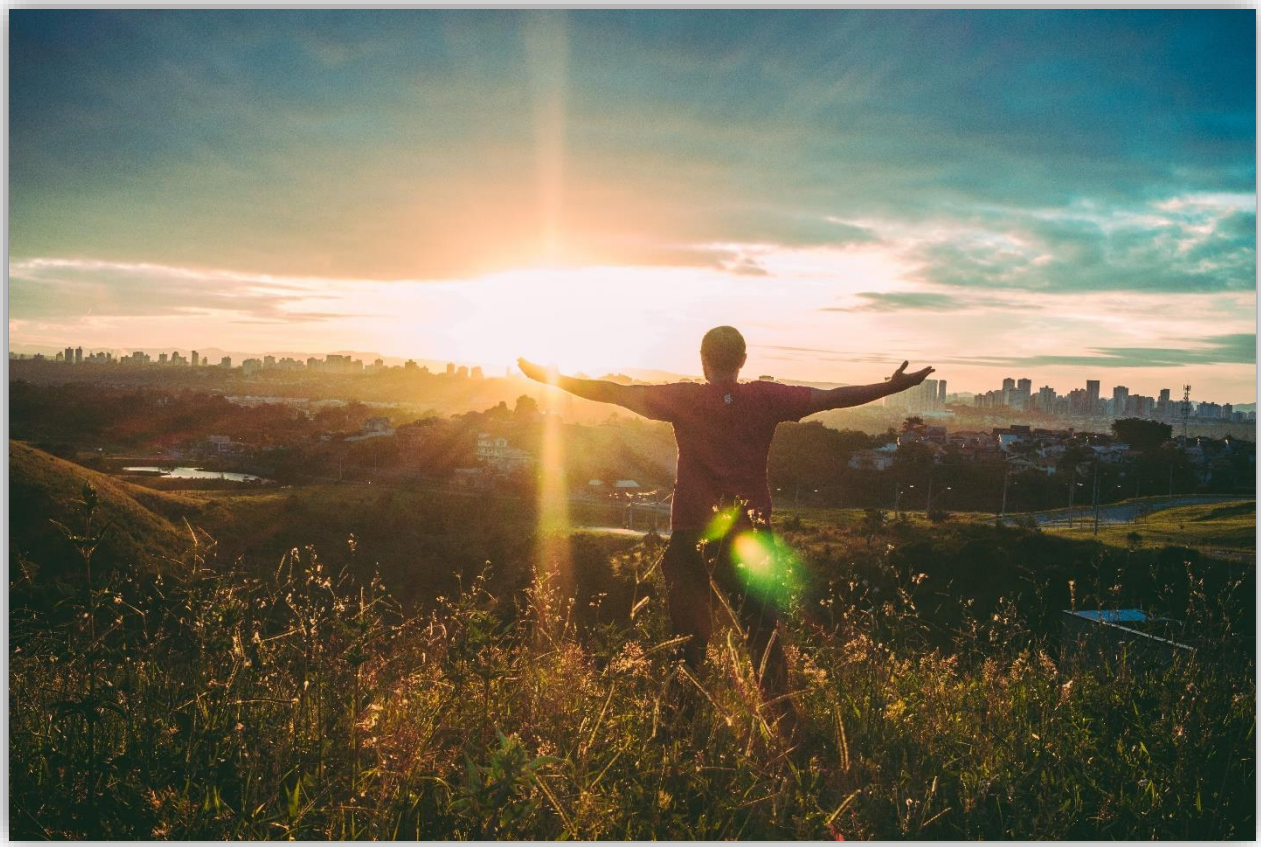
2020
National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
&
Day of Prayer Toolkit



"Human trafficking is a crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free victims and stop this crime that has become ever more aggressive, that threatens not just individuals, but the foundational values of society."

- Pope Francis

Migration and Refugee Services

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For questions about this toolkit, please contact
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National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

In a proclamation issued in December, President Trump designated *January 2020* as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This is an excellent opportunity to increase awareness about human trafficking and trafficking prevention.

In the upcoming weeks, we encourage you to undertake efforts to educate communities on human trafficking. In doing so, you can also promote best practices to help advance anti-trafficking initiatives.

Day of Prayer

February 8th has been designated by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8th is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. She learned from Canossian nuns that she was created in the image of God and possessed human dignity. Once she asserted herself and refused to be enslaved, Josephine became a Canossian sister and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. She was declared a Saint in 2000.

CNS photo/Paul Haring

On February 8th, Catholics all over the world are encouraged to host or attend prayer services to generate greater awareness about human trafficking. Through prayer, we not only reflect on the experiences of those that have suffered through this affront to human dignity but also comfort, strengthen, and help empower survivors. As Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, former Chairman of the Committee on Migration, has stated: "On [February 8th], we will lift our voices loudly in prayer, hope, and love for trafficking victims and survivors. If just one person realizes from this day that they or someone they know is being trafficked, we will have made a difference."

Please find in this toolkit suggestions on how you can celebrate and educate others on National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and the annual Day of Prayer.

Human Trafficking Background and Overview

Facts about Human Trafficking:

- There are an estimated 40.3 million victims of modern-day slavery worldwide. Of these, 25 million are victims of labor or sex trafficking and 15 million are people trapped in forced marriages.

- Nearly 30% of all victims are men and boys; increasing to 46% for victims of forced labor

- Unfortunately, stakeholders have increasingly found that individuals in situations of forced migration, such as refugees and unaccompanied children, are particularly vulnerable to labor and sex traffickers.

- Victim identification remains a significant challenge to U.S. efforts to prevent trafficking, prosecute perpetrators, and protect victims.

- Calculated as a 150-billion-dollar industry, modern day slavery has become the fastest growing source of illicit profit for criminals worldwide.

The Church's Position on Human Trafficking:

- The elimination of human trafficking is a priority issue for the Catholic Church. Because every life is a gift from God and is sacred, it deserves to be protected and nurtured; we each have a responsibility to fight against the violation and degradation of our brothers and sisters.

- The Catechism of the Church forbids acts that cause the enslavement of humans. During the Second Vatican Council in 1965, the Church further stated "slavery, prostitution, the selling of women, and children, and disgraceful working conditions where people are treated as mere tools for profits rather than free and responsible persons are infamies and supreme dishonor to the creator." (Gaudium et Spes, 1965).

- In 2014, Pope Francis stated during his Declaration on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: "[M]odern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labor and prostitution, and organ trafficking, is a crime against humanity. Its victims are from all walks of life, but are most frequently among the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters."

- Men and women religious have also played an integral part of in the battle against human trafficking. In 2001, nearly 800 women leaders of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) passed a resolution dedicating over one million members "to work in solidarity with one another within our own religious communities and in the countries in which we are located to address insistently at every level the abuse and sexual exploitation of women and children . . ." The U.S. Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking is the domestic response to this call.

USCCB/MRS Anti-Trafficking Programs and Initiatives:

For over a decade, USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) has been a leader in the U.S. and global response to human trafficking. It operates an Anti-Trafficking Program to coordinate the response of the U.S. Catholic Church.

- *Education & Outreach:*

  BECOME A SHEPHERD (**S**top **H**uman Trafficking and **E**xploitation, **P**rotect, **H**elp, **E**mpower and **R**estore **D**ignity): USCCB/MRS is continually working to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern-day slavery within the American Catholic community. To become involved, you can request the online SHEPHERD Tool Kit. Would you like to hear from current Shepherd parishes engaging parishioners and community members in anti-trafficking ministries? Watch the St. Josephine Bakhita webinar.

  AMISTAD: USCCB/MRS created the Amistad Movement to educate and engage immigrant leaders in the fight against human trafficking within communities that are frequently vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation in the United States. The Amistad Movement is intended to empower immigrants through a comprehensive and intensive training program. To request materials and learn more, check out the AMISTAD Program on our website.

- *Coalition Building:*

  The Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAHT), administered by USCCB, consists of more than 30 national and international agencies working to eliminate the plight of trafficked victims. Together, CCOAHT members advocate for stronger state, national, and federal legislation, promote trauma-informed and survivor-centered services for victims, raise public consciousness through grass roots action, and press the private sector and consumers to prioritize slave-free supply chains. Interested in becoming a member? Learn more at CCOAHT.

BECOME a SHEPHERD

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION.
PROTECT, HELP, EMPOWER AND, RESTORE DIGNITY

AMISTAD

CCOAHT

Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking

USCCB/MRS Anti-Trafficking Programs and Initiatives Continued:

- *Services for Survivors:*

  There is a growing body of research leading to an enhanced understanding of what human trafficking survivors need to prosper. Richard F Mollica, MD, a Harvard Medical School Professor of Psychiatry, found that work serves as a psychological life raft for a trauma survivor – including those who have been subjected to human trafficking.

  USCCB/MRS provides specialized pre-employment and employment services to foreign-born and U.S citizen trafficking survivors as part of the Dignity of Work Program funded by the Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime. Through a network of 6 Catholic Charities Affiliates in Atlanta, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Houston, and New Jersey, USCCB/MRS is addressing employment and educational gaps, enhancing existing skills, and progressively supporting survivors toward economic self-sufficiency.

DIGNITY of WORK | Specialized Employment Related Services for Victims of Human Trafficking

Talking Points

- As Catholics, we believe in the dignity of every human life and vehemently oppose human trafficking and modern-day slavery as it contravenes basic human dignity.

- As Pope Francis has stated: "Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ."

- There are an estimated 40.3 million victims of human trafficking worldwide. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, including the United States.

- Migrants and refugees are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. Thousands of individuals are trafficked across U.S. borders and forced into slavery each year.

- Although sex trafficking remains a serious problem, foreign victims are more often found in situations of labor trafficking. In fact, the two of the largest trafficking cases in the United States involved labor trafficking in Guam and New York.

- In addition to working to eradicate human trafficking, our nation should ensure that victims have the services and support they need to heal, find affordable housing, earn a living wage, and obtain self-sufficiency.

CNS photo/Stringer, EPA

Letters to the Editor Tips

Writing a letter to the editor (LTE) is the perfect way to offer your perspective or express your appreciation for an already-published article or commentary piece.

Please let us know if your letter to the editor is published! We will promote it on our social media platforms. Completing this final step in the LTE process helps ensure that your letter's impact is even greater. Email us at MRSTraff@usccb.org with a link to your published LTE.

Letter to the Editor Writing Tips

- *Keep it short* (150-250 words). If you do not edit your LTE, the news outlet might edit it for you. Since they could cut out your main point, it is best to write something both punchy and brief.

- *Speak in your own voice.* Explain why the article matters to you. Talk about your faith, professional experience, or knowledge of human trafficking. Be personal and authentic.

- *Get local.* Editors are generally more interested in letters that highlight local impacts. Can you relate the issues raised in a national piece on human trafficking to issues impacting your own community?

- *Follow these best practices:*

  Reference a recent article (if possible). Your letter is most likely to be published if it responds directly to the newspaper's recent coverage of a specific trafficking issue. Mention the article you are responding to by its headline and date of publication.

  Send your LTE in the body of your email, not as an attachment.

  Include contact information. Include your full name, contact information, location, and profession or expertise (if relevant) in the email as well. (The paper will not print your contact information.)

  Be timely. Try to get your LTE submitted within 1-3 days after the relevant article is published.

Sample Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Your recent article, *[name of article]*, discussing the issue of *[labor/sex trafficking / supply chain transparency]* expertly highlighted the existence of trafficking and human exploitation in our *[community/country]*. I found this piece particularly timely as January is the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Our *[country/community]* has a proud history of addressing human trafficking, but we can and must do more to ensure that victims are properly identified and assisted. This month serves as an opportunity to not just raise awareness of human trafficking but to commit to redoubling our engagement in meaningful prevention methods. And while we should make this commitment during the month of January, I urge us to remember that prevention and education efforts should be a focus every day of the year.

Sincerely,

_____

OR (when responding to an article with a religious theme or that mentions a bishop or Church leader)

Dear Editor,

Your recent article, *[name of article]*, discussing the issue of human trafficking and human exploitation was *[jarring/uplifting]*. As a Catholic, I understand that human trafficking undermines basic human dignity and inflicts harm upon human life. The prevention of human trafficking and misery is a moral issue and one that we must come together to advance. Our Catholic community believes that all humans are made in the image and likeness of God. As the Church prepares to celebrate the Day of Prayer for St. Josephine Bakhita on February 8th, I hope my fellow parishioners will take the opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking. Further, I hope that all Catholics will take the opportunity to educate themselves on this form of human suffering so that we can be better positioned to eradicate this terrible crime.

Sincerely,

Anti-Trafficking Social Media Template

Posts for National Human Trafficking Awareness Day (January 11)

Twitter:

- Today is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. There are an estimated 40 million victims of human #trafficking and #slavery today. We pray for them and pray for an end to all forms of #slavery. #endtrafficking

- January 11th is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. We pray for all victims of trafficking and work to #endtrafficking and #stopslavery.

Facebook:

- January 11th has been designated as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Today, we pray for all survivors of trafficking and work to #endtrafficking and #stopslavery. To learn more about the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops / Migration and Refugee Services' Anti-Trafficking Program, visit: http://bit.ly/1Tcwcdq

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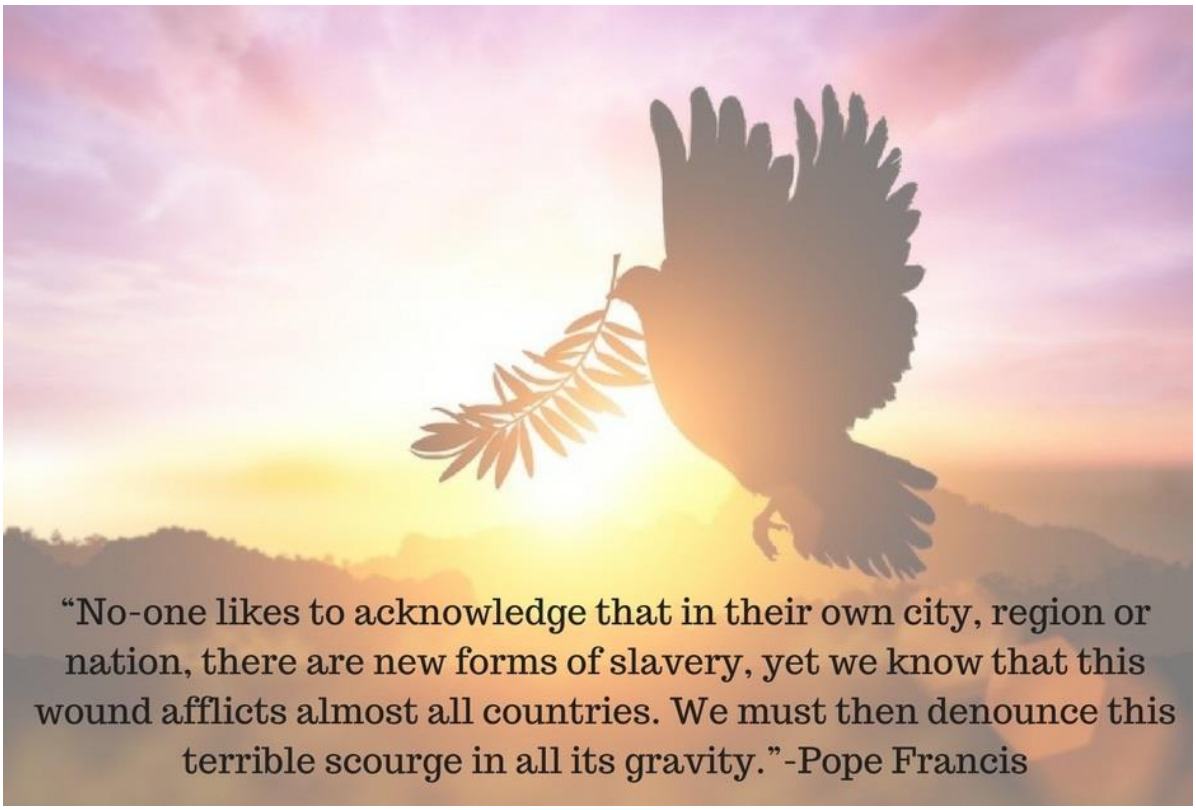


Anti-Trafficking Social Media Template Continued

Posts for National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month (all of January):

Twitter:

- January is national slavery & #humantrafficking prevention month. Learn about the @MRSserves #antitrafficking program at http://bit.ly/1Tcwcdq**.**

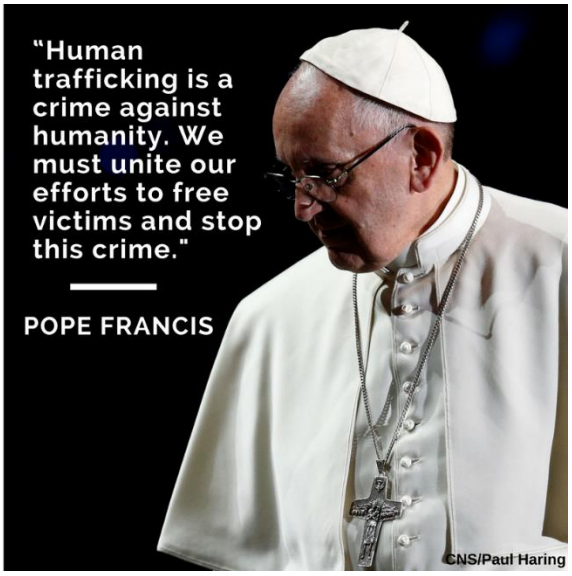
- In January, we draw attention to #slavery & #humantrafficking. Learn how you can help victims of #trafficking by visiting https://bit.ly/22AF9ka.

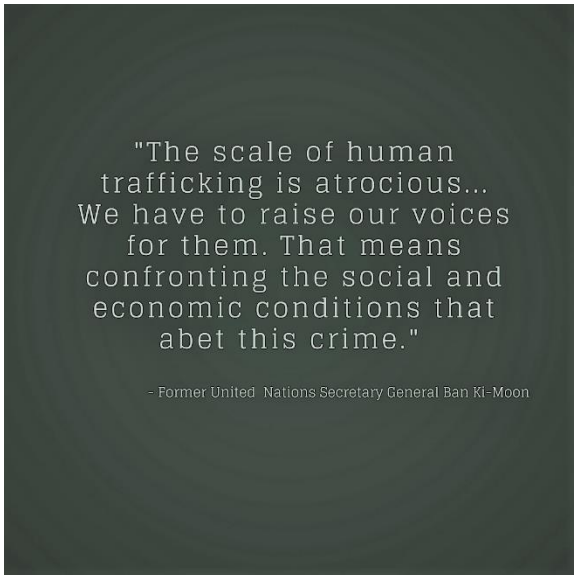
Facebook:

- January has been designated as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. There are more than 40 million people who have been affected by human trafficking worldwide. To learn more about trafficking and how the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services is helping survivors, visit: https://bit.ly/2EAW6KV.

- In January, and throughout the year, the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAHT), works to eliminate the plight of trafficked victims. CCOAHT advocates for stronger legislation, promotes survivor-centered services for victims, and raise public consciousness through grass roots action. Interested in becoming a member? Learn more at CCOAHT.

Graphics:





Anti-Trafficking Social Media Template Continued

Posts for World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action against Human Trafficking (February 8):

Twitter:

Leading up to the Day of Prayer:

- A survivor of kidnapping and #slavery, we celebrate a Day of #Prayer for St. Josephine Bakhita, the Patron Saint of Sudan, on Feb. 8th.

- Tomorrow, we will celebrate a Day of #Prayer for Saint Bakhita as we pray for survivors of #humantrafficking and #slavery.

On the Day of Prayer:

- Over 70 years ago, St. Bakhita, Patron Saint of Sudan, passed away. Today, we pray for those who have been victims of #slavery & trafficking.

- Today, we celebrate a Day of #Prayer for victims of #humantrafficking & #slavery as we celebrate the incredible Saint Bakhita.

Facebook:

- St. Bakhita survived slavery and persevered. Once she gained freedom by asserting her human dignity and refusing to be enslaved, Josephine became a Canossian sister. She dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. In her honor, we recognize today as a Day of #Prayer for victims of #humantrafficking and #slavery.

- Many years ago, Josephine Bakhita lived as a slave. Years later, St. Bakhita was canonized and is now known as the patron Saint of Sudan. Today, in her honor, we pray for all of those who have been victims of slavery and trafficking.

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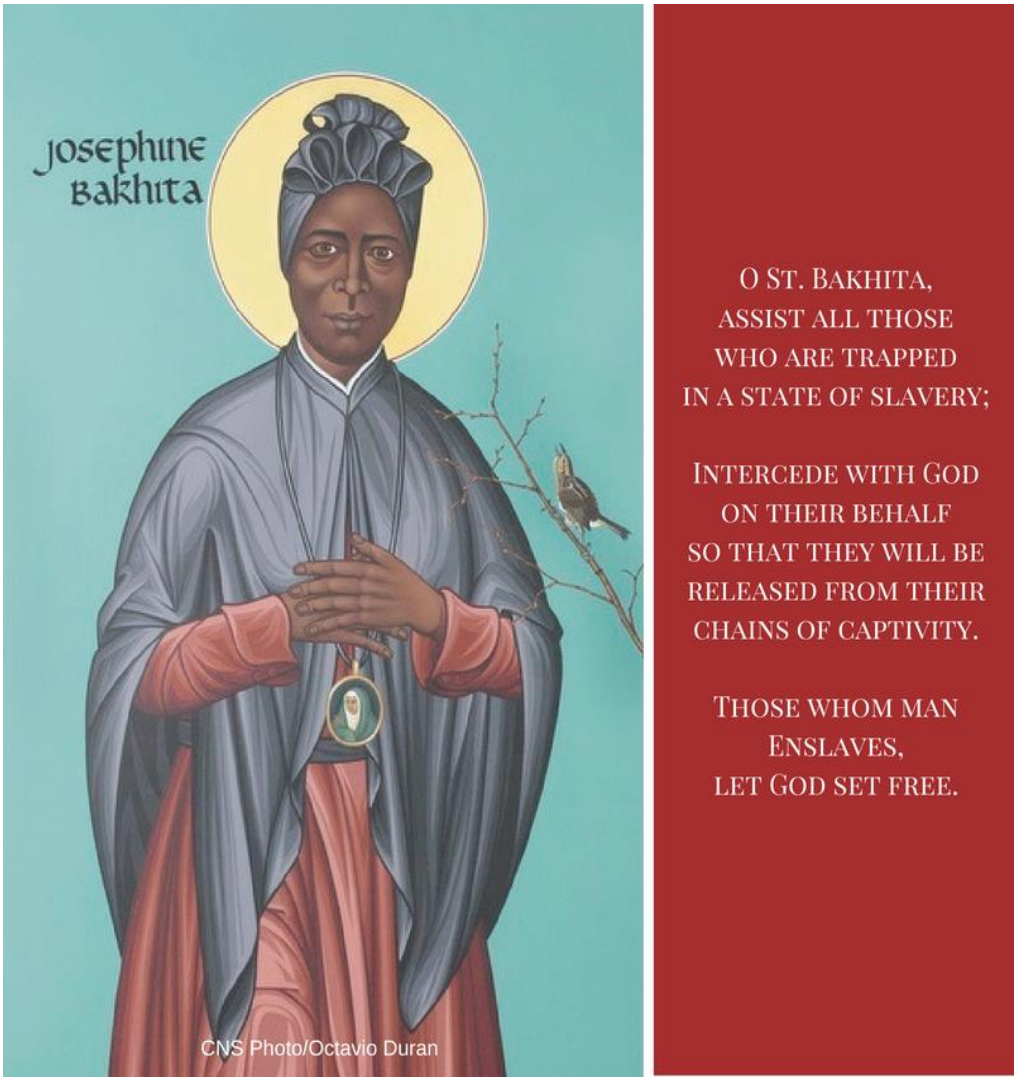
Josephine
Bakhita
CNS Photo/Octavio Duran
O St. Bakhita,
assist all those
who are trapped
in a state of slavery;
Intercede with God
on their behalf
so that they will be
released from their
chains of captivity.
Those whom man
enslaves,
let God set free.

Community Engagement Ideas

Become a Responsible Consumer

- Find out how many victims of forced labor were involved in producing the products you most commonly buy by visiting the slavery footprint website.
- Download the Sweat & Toil app from the U.S. Department of Labor. Use when shopping to know which products and countries contribute to child labor.
- Prefer to read about these products at the U.S. Department of Labor website? Check out their List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor.
- Inquire if the hotel where you are staying has signed the Tourism Child-Protective Code of Conduct. This set of principles requires code members to train their employees on how to identify & report trafficking cases. If your hotel has not signed, encourage them to do so.
- Hold a FairTrade fair or tasting event to educate participants that ethical trade equals just working conditions and wages, an antidote to labor trafficking. Familiarize yourself with the CRS Ethical Trade Shopping Guide.

Host an Educational Event

Host a movie night. Screen one of the following films to further educate your community on human trafficking. See brief synopsis and sample group discussion questions below.

- ***The Price of Free***
  Witness the reality of boys and girls across the world compelled to perform slave labor in decrepit factories – a phenomenon fueled by the growing demand for cheap products. Learn about the work of Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi as he and his team dedicate their lives to rescuing and rehabilitating trafficked children in India. This film – the winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize in 2018 - illustrates the link between consumer behavior in the United States with child trafficking abroad and what it will take from each of us to clean up supply chains.

  DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
  1. After watching the film, has your idea of who is responsible for child labor and child trafficking changed? How and why?
  2. Kailash's nonprofit organization BBA works to rehabilitate rescued children, and to prevent their re-exploitation. What challenges did you notice about supporting these boys and girls?
  3. Knowing that many of our goods are made with child labor, what can we do as individuals?

  For more questions, download the Price of Free discussion guide.

Community Engagement Ideas Continued

- ***St. Bakhita:***
  SYNOPSIS: We first meet Bakhita in a rural village of Sudan when she is captured by slave traders. After years of being beaten and abused, a white merchant Federico Marin buys her from her current owner and brings her to Italy. Once in the Marin household, the daughter of the master Aurora takes a strong liking to Bakhita and chooses her as her nanny. Bakhita is treated like an outsider and accused of being wicked by other servants because of her black skin. Despite this, Bakhita proves to be generous to everyone she encounters even if they have wronged her. Befriending a priest, she discovers a life of hope and religious support. The hardest hurdle Bakhita must overcome is that of acquiring her freedom to help others.

  St. BAKHITA DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
  1. It is not always easy to help others who seem different than us.
  2. What can the Bible teach us about overcoming these prejudices based on fear?
  3. How can we be more like Bakhita and work to forgive those who have victimized others and help them see a life of dignity and respect for others? Sometimes we must make sacrifices and do things we don't like in order to help others. What are some realistic sacrifices we can make in our daily lives to help the fight against human trafficking?

- ***Black Gold:***
  SYNOPSIS: The coffee industry has boomed in recent years, with new coffee shops popping up at every street corner, but from where is this supply of coffee coming? This documentary takes an in depth look at the world of international coffee trade and the different lives affected by it. The film takes us to Ethiopia, a mecca for coffee growers, and explores the struggles coffee farmers face trying to obtain a fair price for their coffee. The blatant exploitation is made abundantly clear as they fight to avoid bankruptcy while other companies make incredibly large profits at their expense.

  DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
  1. As consumers, what is our role in the world of trade, and what can we do to help fight exploitation?
  2. Should we hold companies accountable for labor trafficking if they are knowingly exploiting farmers?
  3. To what standards should we hold these companies?
  4. How can we raise awareness on ethical consumer responsibility through the Church?

Prayer Card

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA
1869-1947
MEMORIAL: FEBRUARY 8

February 8th has been designated by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8th is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. She learned from Canossian nuns that she was created in the image of God and possessed human dignity. Once she asserted herself and refused to be enslaved, Josephine became a Canossian sister and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering

In October 2000, Josephine Bakhita was canonized by Pope John Paul II, at which point he noted that "in St. Josephine Bakhita we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights." (St. Bakhita's Canonization Mass, October 1, 2000)

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ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

A Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery
as a child
and endured untold hardship and suffering.
Once liberated from your physical enslavement,
you found true redemption in your encounter with
Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a
state of slavery;
Intercede with God on their behalf
so that they will be released from their chains
of captivity.
Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery
and let them look to you as an example of hope
and faith.
Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.
We ask for your prayers and intercessions for
those enslaved among us.

Amen.

Oración a Santa Josefina Bakhita

Santa Josefina Bakhita, cuando niña, fuiste vendida
como esclava
y tuviste que pasar indecibles dificultades y
sufrimiento.
Una vez liberada de tu esclavitud física,
hallaste la verdadera redención en tu encuentro
con Cristo y su Iglesia.

Oh, Santa Bakhita, ayuda a todos aquellos que
están atrapados en la esclavitud;
en nombre de ellos, intercede ante Dios
para que sean liberados de las cadenas de
su cautiverio.
Que Dios libere a todo aquel que ha sido
esclavizado por el hombre.

Bríndales alivio a los que sobreviven la esclavitud
y permite que ellos te vean como modelo de fe
y esperanza.
Ayuda a todos los sobrevivientes para que
encuentren la sanación de sus heridas.
Te suplicamos orar e interceder por los que se
encuentran esclavisados entre nosotros.

Amén.

Suggested Intercessions for the Prayer of the Faithful

Please choose some of the following to be included among the intercessions in your parish during the February 8th World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action against Human Trafficking.

The Pope, Bishops, and Catholic Faithful

For Pope Francis, that our Heavenly Father may gift him with deep wisdom as he calls the Church to struggle against the evil of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For our bishop, *[name here]*, that he may be encouraged by our prayers and support to lead God's people in building a culture that respects human dignity, we pray to the Lord.

For the bishops, that they continue to be leaders in the fight against modern-day slavery, both domestically and abroad, we pray to the Lord.

For the bishops, that they continue to make the fight against human trafficking a priority on the national and state level, we pray to the Lord.

For our priests and deacons, that they may boldly proclaim Church teaching on human dignity and the Church's teaching on human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For our religious brother and sisters, that God inspire them with the continued commitment to fight the evil of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For all Catholics, that God inspire them to take action in their local communities to support and protect survivors of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking

For everyone who is trapped in a situation of slavery, that God will help to liberate them from their chains, we pray to the Lord.

For an end to human trafficking, that the dignity of all of God's children will be protected, we pray to the Lord.

For those caught up in a situation of slavery, that their perpetrators be brought to justice and that they might find a path to healing, we pray to the Lord.

For survivors of slavery, that God guide them to a path down which they might find wholeness and peace, we pray to the Lord.

For survivors of human trafficking, that they might find the support they need to start a new life, we pray to the Lord.

Government Officials

For the President of the United States, and government leaders, that they continue to work tirelessly to end the slavery that continues to exist in our communities, we pray to the Lord.

For the President of the United States and government leaders, that Jesus, the Son of God, will help them understand the dignity of all human persons and support legislation that better protects vulnerable populations in our midst, we pray to the Lord.

For policy makers in our nation, that God grants them the wisdom to enact laws that provide greater protection for victims and survivors of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

Additional Intercessions

For law enforcement, that God grants them the wisdom to recognize situations of forced labor and sexual slavery, while working to protect its victims and punish its perpetrators, we pray to the Lord.

For the media, that they will make awareness raising of the problem of human trafficking a priority, we pray to the Lord.

For social service providers, that God will grant them the strength and continued commitment to help survivors of human trafficking and support them on their path to wholeness, we pray to the Lord.

For perpetrators of slavery, that they repent of their evil ways and turn to God for forgiveness, we pray to the Lord.

For our neighbors, coworkers, friends, fellow Christians, and all people, that they may increase in their awareness of the problem of human trafficking and become a voice in the public square calling for its abolition, we pray to the Lord.