

Prayer Service for World Day against Trafficking in Persons
July 30, 2018

Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons



Leader:

The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally.

- 81% of them are trapped in forced labor.
- 25% of them are children.
- 75% are women and girls.

The International Labor Organization estimates that forced labor and human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide. (Source: www.polarisproject.org)

We pray for an end to these practices that rob people of their God-given human dignity. We pray that we will act to protect and assist trafficked persons.

Nan Merrill – From Psalm 72

Ant: May our prayers rise up before You and blessings of love be freely rendered.

Bring justice to the peoples, O Beloved, and your mercy to all generations! May the people be known for mercy, rendering justice to the poor!

Let their spirits soar as the eagle, let joy abide in every heart! May we heed the cry of the poor – the young and the old, helping to free all those in need, awakening the souls of oppressors!

May we know oneness with You as long as the sun endures, as long as the stars shine, throughout all generations! May we acknowledge You in the rain falling on the fields, like showers that water the earth!

In our day may justice flourish, and peace abound, throughout all the nations! May the leaders of nations from all the earth, listen to Love's Voice; May they spend time in Silence before they counsel!

May the leaders surrender to your Love, and the nations serve the Most High! For You heed the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no friend.

You have compassion on the weak, the downtrodden, giving them strength and hope. From injustice and oppression, You redeem their life; and precious are they in your Heart.

Ant: May our prayers rise up before You and blessings of love be freely rendered.

Suggested reflections:

U.N. Videos: [Portraits](#)

You Tube Video : [Illumination - A Prayer for Freedom](#)

Ezekiel 34: 11 - 16

Matthew 25: 31 - 46

Intercessions:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Through the intercession of St. Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of trafficked persons, we pray:

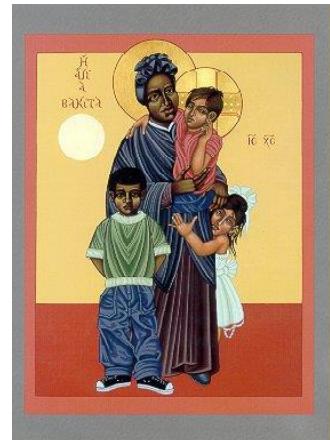
For trafficked persons to be relieved of their suffering....

For law enforcement officers and health care workers to recognize those being trafficked and come to their aid ...

For the conversion of the perpetrators of human trafficking...

For an end to this form of modern-day slavery

For the restoration of all victim's God-given dignity ...



Closing:

Prayer for an End to Human Trafficking (Gen Cassani, SSND)

O God, our words cannot express what our minds can barely comprehend and our hearts feel when we hear of children and adults deceived and transported to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor because of human greed.

Our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are being transgressed through threats, deception, and force.

We cry out against the degrading practice of trafficking and pray for it to end.

Strengthen the fragile-spirited and broken-hearted.

Make real your promises to fill these our sisters and brothers with a love that is tender and good, and send the exploiters away empty handed.

Give us the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity with them, that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all of us.

Amen.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIONS FROM USCCB HOW TO HELP FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Be Informed

- Visit our "About Human Trafficking" page to educate yourself about the issue of human trafficking and learn about the Catholic Church's teaching on this subject.
- Download the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month [toolkit](#).
- Sign up for our [newsletter](#).

Become Involved

- [Become a SHEPHERD](#) and lead your parish or community group to fight human trafficking in your area.
- Join an anti-trafficking coalition or group in your city.
- Pray for the safety of the vulnerable.

Be an Ethical Consumer and Employer

- Find out how your actions contribute to or reduce the demand for human trafficking.
- Websites like www.slaveryfootprint.org , www.knowthechain.org , or the app [Sweat & Toil](#) , can be good places to start.

Spread the Word

- Help us reach your community. For resources or to request technical assistance, training or consultancy services, contact Anti-Trafficking Services at mrstraff@usccb.org.

Be Observant

Notice these Indicators of Human Trafficking:

Signs of being controlled

- No identification documents
- Unable to leave job or residence
- Not in control of their own finances
- Is under 18 and provides commercial sex acts
- At any age unwillingly provides commercial sex acts
- Is afraid of law enforcement or receiving help
- In a relationship with someone who is dominating
- Never is alone and/or always has someone translating or answering questions on their behalf

Signs of trauma

- Inconsistent details when telling their story
- Seems anxious, fearful or paranoid; avoids eye contact
- Tearfulness or signs of depression
- Unexplained bruises or cuts or other signs of physical abuse
- Is evasive or unable to answer questions about where they live

Take Action

- If you or someone you know has experienced any of these indicators call the National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text the hotline's BeFree textline: Text "BeFree" (233733).
- If you need more guidance on reporting potential cases of trafficking, you can call and talk through the case with USCCB Anti-Trafficking program staff at 202.541.3357. (*Please note, this line is for seeking guidance on trafficking concerns only.*)