

REMEMBERING ALL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND OTHER FORMS OF MODERN DAY SLAVERY.

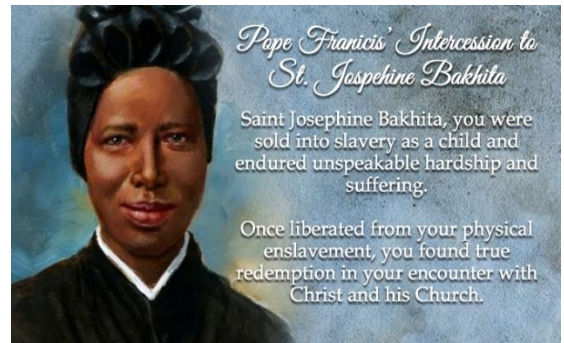
Human Trafficking is a crime against humanity: We must unite our efforts to free victims and stop this crime that's become even more aggressive, that threatens not just individuals, but the foundational values of society, international security and laws, the economy, families and communities.

- Pope Francis

Let us begin by observing a moment of silence in solidarity with the more than 27 million women, men and children who suffer each day from modern day slavery.

Each person forced into slavery has a personal story... a story of struggles, hopes and dreams.

Sr Josephine Bakhita, a survivor of human trafficking, was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl she was kidnapped and sold into slavery and treated brutally by her captors. In 1883, she was bought by an Italian diplomat who sent her to Italy to work as a maid for the daughter of a family friend studying with the Canossian Daughters of Charity. It was there that Bakhita came to know about God whom "she had experienced in her heart without knowing" who God was. In 1890, she was baptised and received the name Josephine. Later, the Italian family came to take their 'property' back to Africa. Josephine expressed her desire to stay and with the help of the superior of the Canossian Sisters and the Cardinal of Venice, she won her freedom and later entered the novitiate. For the next 50 years she lived a life of prayer and service as a Canossian Sister before her death in 1947. St Josephine was canonised in 2000. There is a grassroots movement to designate her as the patron saint of kidnapped and trafficked persons.



As we listen to the stories of survivors of human trafficking, we pray for the strength of those enslaved as we work to create a world without terror, torture, cruelty and crime.

"The long working hours made us weak and exhausted...I always felt tired and much disturbed because the supervisors were scolding me for carelessness in my work. I also suffered from headache and leg pain. I didn't like working at the mill at all."

- *A 20 year-old Dalit Girl; working 12 hour plus days at a textile factory in Tamil Nadu, India*
(Silence)

My wife and I were made to do agricultural and construction work to pay off our debt. Our small children were abused and forced to do household chores. We were all forced to live in a garage and were threatened with deportation. Food was locked up and we were not allowed to eat without permission."

- *A man who moved with his family from Latin America to Washington State, USA*
(Silence)

"We had no choice. There was nowhere to flee; we were surrounded by the sea. They took our passports and belongings. We were locked inside a room guarded by their men. We worked long hours with very little sleep. There were many workers living under the same conditions"

- *A Young man enslaved on a fishing boat in Thailand* (Silence)

They let me know what would become of me if I told anyone. They told me they knew where I lived they knew my teachers, they knew my school, they knew everything about me. There was nothing I could do to protect myself. At 14 years-old, I didn't know where to begin.

- *A young girl sold by a friend's father and trafficked for sex.*

Take a moment to reflect. What struck you as you heard these stories?

(Take a moment of silence after each response.)

Prayer Response: *Restore their freedom*

May human dignity be restored to those who have been bought, sold or kidnapped for the monetary benefit of others. **R**

For those in bonded labour, in agricultural fields, mines and factories. For those whose lives have been reduced to tools of production and commodities. **R**

For those who cannot return home due to stigma of prostitution, disease or shame, that they receive the solace, healing and support they need. **R**

For women who are estimated to make up 80% of human trafficking victims, and for changes in societal attitudes that deny the equality and dignity of women. **R**

For victims of trafficking in our own local communities in New Zealand and Australia.
May we have eyes to see and act to make our communities slave free. **R**

Awaken our hearts and deepen our commitment to work for a world where every person is free and able to live with dignity and freedom. We ask for conversion of heart for traffickers and for strong laws that protect victims. Give us the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity, so that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all people. Amen

ACTIONS:

LEARN about human trafficking – globally and locally PRAY for victims of trafficking and for an end to this slavery. Search YouTube for life stories and documentaries about Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery.

DEMAND slave-free products. Buy fair trade when possible.

ADVOCATE for legislation that protects victims

Prayer adapted from the INTERCOMMUNITY PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER – Seattle

WE TEND TO FORGET THAT SLAVERY DIDN'T END CENTURIES AGO?

There are more than 40 million slaves working globally today:
5 million of them are in the sex trade,
but 20 million do 'regular' jobs; fishing, farming and factory work.

These are the **slaves who work for us**.

If we refuse to buy slave-produced goods, we have the power to set them free!

The food we buy that is **most likely to have been produced by slave labour**:

FISH

- ✚ 17% of workers on Thai fishing boats are slaves – they catch fish for our pet food, fish oil supplements and to feed farmed prawns and salmon.
- ✚ Forced labour is common on tuna and squid boats.
- ✚ Forced and child labour are common in fish canneries.

COCOA

- ✚ 60% of cocoa is grown in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.
- ✚ 1/3 of the workers there are children – around 1.6 million of them.
- ✚ Think about the labour that goes into producing Easter eggs.

SUGAR

- ✚ Forced labour is common in Brazil: the world's largest producer.
- ✚ Child labour is widely used.
- ✚ Sugar is often grown on stolen land, depriving the owners of a livelihood.
- ✚ Sugar subsidies in rich countries keep prices down for poor growers.

Just Kai discovers and promotes slave-free food. For further buying guides and their latest research:
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