



PRAYER

LORD JESUS CHRIST, our liberator from every bondage, mercifully hear our prayers which we pour out at the foot of Your Most Holy Cross. Through the intercession of Mary Most Holy and St Josephine Bakhita, we entrust to You our prayers for increased awareness and education concerning human trafficking, the conversion and repentance of both intentional and unintentional perpetrators, the total freedom and healing of victims and survivors, and for an increased respect and protection for the dignity of all of God's children, especially those affected by human trafficking.

Give us the courage we need to follow You to and through the Cross by developing a deep compassion for the suffering of our sisters and brothers, and to personally do what we can to relieve their suffering in a way most pleasing to You. May we grow in gratitude for our own freedom and the riches we enjoy. *Amen.*



Works of Mercy

CORPORAL

1. Feed the Hungry Mt 25:35
2. Give Drink to the Thirsty Mt 25:35
3. Clothe the Naked Mt 25:36
4. Shelter the Homeless Mt 25:35
5. Visit the Sick Mt 25:36
6. Visit the Imprisoned Mt 25:35
7. Bury the Dead Mt 25:40

SPIRITUAL

1. Instruct the Uninformed Mt 16:15
2. Counsel the Doubtful Jn 14:27
3. Admonish Sinners Lk 15:7
4. Bear Wrongs Patiently Lk 6:27
5. Forgive Offenses Mt 6:12
6. Comfort the Sorrowful Mt 11:28
7. Pray for the Living and the Dead Jn 17:24

***No one person can do everything,
but everyone can do something.***



HUMAN TRAFFICKING





St. Josephine Bakhita
Patron Saint
of
Human Trafficking
Victims & Survivors

CHURCH TEACHING

Catechism 2414

The seventh commandment forbids acts or enterprises that for any reason – selfish or ideological, commercial, or totalitarian – lead to the enslavement of human beings, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity. It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit. St. Paul directed a Christian master to treat his Christian slave "no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, . . . both in the flesh and in the Lord.

WHAT IS IT?

Human trafficking is the 2nd largest criminal industry worldwide, generating \$150 billion per year. It is the recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud or coercion.

IT HAPPENS HERE

25 million people are trafficked worldwide. Victims can be of any age or gender, but the vast majority of cases in the U.S. are sex-trafficked females. In 2023, Louisiana reported 1,615 victims (86% sex; 84% females; 83% minors).

HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

Victims are usually trafficked by someone they know and trust – such as a family member or caregiver (33%), an intimate partner (28%), or an employer (22%). Fewer than 10% of cases involve kidnapping.

Anyone can be trafficked, but those with vulnerabilities are more easily exploited. This includes those with mental or physical health concerns, poverty, homelessness, sexual assault, family violence, and discrimination.

To help persons with lived experiences of trafficking, we can pray and we can support providers who assist them in rebuilding their lives. To eliminate trafficking, we need to work together as a society to increase services to reduce root causes of vulnerabilities, such as poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, and domestic violence.

RESOURCES and IDEAS

Learn more, educate others, and donate time, treasure, and/or talent for a local organization working against human trafficking.

Baptist Friendship House — assists women who are survivors of human trafficking
baptistfriendshiphouse.org

National Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-888-3737-888 or Text "BEFREE" –24/7 toll-free to report suspected human trafficking

nolacatholic.org/human-trafficking-1
Schedule a basic presentation

Use TraffickCam.com app when staying in hotels/motels

ASK a LOCAL LIBRARY to showcase prevalence of local human trafficking

WRITE to the editor or post on social media about signs of human trafficking

polarisproject.org/recognize-signs

state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/

justice.gov/humantrafficking/whole-government-approach

humantrafficking.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Human-Trafficking-Annual-Data-Report-2023-2022-Data.pdf

sistersagainsttrafficking.org

Shared Hope International sharedhope.org

OBSERVE February 8 (feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita) as the annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking.

PRAY Stations of the Cross
usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/upload/Human-Trafficking-Stations-of-the-Cross.pdf

PRAY a special Rosary– 9am, 2nd Sunday of each month at St. Edward