

Reflection & Prayer to End Human Trafficking

January 11 – February 8, 2022



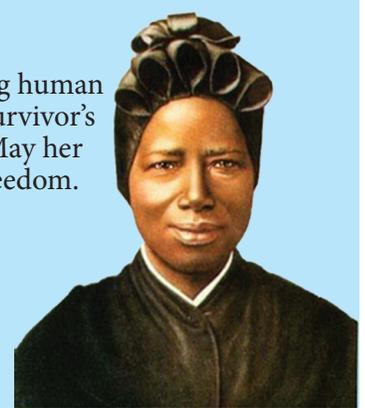
St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated brutally by her captors as she was sold and resold. She did not remember her name; Bakhita, which means “fortunate one,” was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

Daily Prayer

God of hope and peace, touch our hearts and energize our ongoing efforts in abolishing human trafficking, a heinous crime against humanity, so that every victim is freed and every survivor’s life renewed. You blessed St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan with compassion for others. May her prayers comfort and strengthen the women, men, and children who are in search of freedom.

(Say appropriate daily prayer below)

We ask for transformation of heart for those who inflict pain, anguish and grief on our vulnerable sisters and brothers. Give us generosity to stand in solidarity with others so that together we heal the hearts and lives of all Your people. *Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.*



Jan. 11 Nat’l Human Trafficking Awareness Day We pray for the millions of people forced from their homes annually by severe natural disasters who are not included in the UN High Commissioner for Refugees protection.		12 We pray for children and young adults bullied by their peers and afraid to tell their relatives, friends or authorities.	13 We pray that people shift their votes and purchasing power to prevent profiting from enslaved labor.	14 We pray for the domestic workers isolated from others, making them especially vulnerable to labor exploitation.
15 We pray for children and young adults who are unhoused, unprotected, and victimized by sexual exploitation.	16 We pray for the survivors of commercial sexual exploitation who need emotional support, courage, and hope.	17 We pray for garment workers exposed to unsafe work conditions, long working hours, and low wages or no pay.	18 We pray for children sent into domestic servitude by their parents, hoping in vain they will enjoy better living conditions.	19 We pray for the victims of domestic violence who are constantly monitored and are threatened if they try to escape.
20 We pray for the unemployed who live in poverty, making them vulnerable to traffickers’ exploitation.	21 We pray for nurses tending patients who might be trafficking victims as their wary partners hover close by.	22 We pray for the protection of Indigenous women and children who are highly vulnerable to exploitation.	23 We pray for men forced into labor without breaks, facing intimidation, threats and violence if they demand their wages or freedom.	24 We pray for the Nigerian “house girls” forced into domestic labor, who are underpaid and afraid to speak up.
25 We pray that parents will protect children vulnerable to predators through social media and online gaming.	26 We pray for migrant men who travel for job opportunities and instead are tricked by traffickers and enslaved.	27 We pray for women and children who become separated during disasters and are at risk of being trafficked.	28 We pray for agricultural workers who endure long days, unsafe working conditions and low wages.	29 We pray for the mothers who are desperately looking for their missing children.
30 We pray that we stay alert to potential red flags and report to the proper authorities what does not seem right.	31 We pray for men who stand up against sexual objectification of women and teach boys to respect women and girls.	Feb. 1 We pray that we acknowledge that we cannot end sex trafficking without addressing demand.	2 We pray for women and children at risk of sexual exploitation, forced marriage and forced labor.	3 We pray for people originally groomed with clothes, money and housing, who end up exploited by traffickers with no way out.
4 We pray that when we purchase new clothes, we consider who made them, and whether the price reflects the work that went into them.	5 We pray for victims of organ trafficking who are kidnapped, drugged and violated by unscrupulous organ traffickers.	6 We pray for people forced to migrate who face unjust immigration laws that put them at greater risk of being trafficked.	7 We pray that all traffickers abusing and exploiting their victims be apprehended and charged to the full extent of the law.	8 Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita We pray for resilience and hope for all those who work tirelessly to end sex and labor trafficking.

Human Trafficking: What Are Some of the Myths?

“I heard human trafficking only happens in illegal or underground industries.”

REALITY:

Human trafficking cases have been reported and prosecuted in various industries including restaurants, cleaning services, construction, factories, and more.

“Does all human trafficking involve sex?”

REALITY:

Worldwide, experts believe there are more situations of labor trafficking than of sex trafficking, but there is much wider awareness of sex trafficking in the U.S. than of labor trafficking.

“Traffickers target victims they don’t know, right?”

REALITY:

Many survivors have been trafficked by their romantic partners, including spouses, and their family members, including parents.

“Isn’t it true that human trafficking is always or usually a violent crime?”

A pervasive myth is that trafficking often involves kidnapping or physically forcing someone into a situation.

REALITY:

However, most traffickers use psychological means such as, tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening victims into enslaved commercial sex or exploitative manual labor.

“I thought only women and girls could be victims and survivors of sex trafficking.”

REALITY:

Men and boys are also victimized by sex traffickers. LGBTQ boys and young men are seen as particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

Our awareness can save victims.

If we see and/or suspect something is wrong, we are urged to call the National Hotline.
It only takes a suspicion.

**See something
suspicious?**

**National Hotline
888-3737-888**

**BEFREE Textline
233733**