

# Reflection & Prayer to End Human Trafficking

January 11 – February 8, 2017



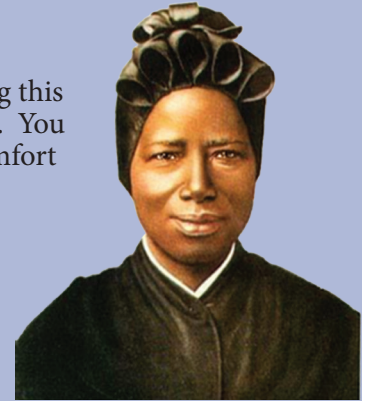
St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated brutally by her captors as she was sold and resold. She did not remember her name; Bakhita, which means “fortunate one,” was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

## Daily Prayer

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

*(Say appropriate daily prayer)*

We ask for transformation of heart for those who inflict pain, anguish and grief on our sisters and brothers. Give them compassion, generosity and the courage 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.*



<p><b>11</b> <b>National Human Trafficking Awareness Day</b></p> <p>We pray for the well-being of all refugees across nations today.</p>	<p><b>12</b> We pray for the young adults who work hard to abolish human trafficking.</p>	<p><b>13</b> We pray for the social workers who assist survivors that they gain strength to continue their work.</p>	<p><b>14</b> We pray for the woman who was raped while trying to cross the border to find a better life.</p>
<p><b>15</b> We pray for the girls around the world who are sold by their parents to keep their family from starving.</p>	<p><b>16</b> We pray that we don't turn a blind eye to all who are being exploited and fade into the shadows.</p>	<p><b>17</b> We pray for the children who are forced to work in slavery who possibly produced the items I consumed today.</p>	<p><b>18</b> We pray for men in abusive relationships and are ashamed to tell.</p>
<p><b>20</b> We pray for the desperate women and men who are contemplating or have attempted suicide.</p>	<p><b>21</b> We pray for the young girls who are being prostituted on our streets, and are shunned by passersby.</p>	<p><b>22</b> We pray for children in war-torn countries forced by gangs into drugs and sex trafficking.</p>	<p><b>23</b> We pray for the men and women who are combating sex trafficking in our communities.</p>
<p><b>25</b> We pray for victims' resilience as they hope and pray to be freed from enslavement.</p>	<p><b>26</b> We pray for the enslaved farmworkers who grow the food on our table.</p>	<p><b>27</b> We pray for the relentless work of the women religious that their efforts persuade change.</p>	<p><b>28</b> We pray for the runaway teenagers who are confused, scared and at risk of being recruited.</p>
<p><b>30</b> We pray for the men who were to get a job, but were enslaved instead.</p>	<p><b>31</b> We pray for the dishwashers and cooks at restaurants who are not paid for their hard work.</p>	<p><b>1</b> We pray for the strength to continue the work in abolishing human trafficking.</p>	<p><b>2</b> We pray for the rescued survivors that they find resilience to face their trauma.</p>
<p><b>4</b> We pray for the immigrants who face the risk of being coerced into labor trafficking.</p>	<p><b>5</b> We pray for the children who will be rescued today, Super Bowl Sunday.</p>	<p><b>6</b> We pray for those who are being bullied in our communities.</p>	<p><b>7</b> We pray for the person we suspected of being a victim, but we hesitated to report.</p> <p><b>8</b> <b>Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita</b> We pray for the parents of the child who will not come home today.</p>

# The Facts About Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery

- There are an estimated 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally
  - 68% of them are trapped in forced labor
  - 26% of them are children
  - 55% are women and girls
- Globally, an estimated 4.5 million people trapped in forced sexual exploitation
- In 2015, it is estimated 1 out of 5 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely victims of child sex trafficking

Sources: International Department of Labor, International Labor Organization, Polaris Project

## How does it Happen?

*Sex and labor trafficking doesn't only happen to undocumented workers or people forcibly taken from their home countries. It happens to US citizens too. The Polaris Project tells how through these survivor's stories.*

- **Love Lies:** Sarah, a 17-year-old from rural Ohio, ran away from home because her parents drank and neglected her. One day, a 30-year-old man offered to take her out and, flattered, she agreed. They began a relationship and at first he treated her well. They moved in together. But when he couldn't make the rent, he asked her to engage in commercial sex to make money. Sarah felt uncomfortable but agreed because she didn't want to return home and wanted her boyfriend to be happy. One night when Sarah was out on the street, she was raped by a stranger who initially solicited her for sex. She immediately called the police, which led to her rescue.
- **False Advertising:** Kevin was recruited by a salesman who came to his door selling magazines. When Kevin mentioned he was having financial troubles, the man offered him a job and a signing bonus. Every day, Kevin worked from 8 am until after midnight and was required to pay for lodgings and gas, and was only paid if he met daily quotas. If he performed well, he would be paid in drugs. He never saw the signing bonus he had been promised. When Kevin tried to leave, one of the managers threatened to kill him and confiscated his identification documents.

## What You Can Do

- Question if the goods you consume are made from enslaved labor
- Promote responsible labor by urging Congress to support the Transparency Act in Supply Chains <http://polarisproject.org/action/support-transparency-supply-chains>
- Visit Polaris website to recognize the signs of a trafficked victim and sign up to get alerts/updates: <https://polarisproject.org/recognize-signs>

**See something suspicious?**

Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline

**888-3737-888**