



February 8

Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita

*International Day of Prayer and Awareness
Against Human Trafficking*

Today we observe a moment of silence in solidarity with the more than 27 million women, men and children who suffer each day from modern day slavery. We recall our Chapter call as Sisters of Bon Secours to "cry out against human trafficking".

Personal Reflection

What has this Chapter call asked of me?

How is it transforming me?

When and how often do I "cry out", speak out against human trafficking?

What is my personal next step in living out this Chapter call?

Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking

We pray for all victims of human trafficking:

- May human dignity be restored to those who have been bought, sold or kidnapped for the monetary benefit of others.
- For those in bonded labor, in agricultural fields, mines and factories who have been reduced to tools of production, commodities than human beings.
- For those who cannot return home due to stigma of prostitution, disease or shame, that they receive the solace, healing and support they need.
- 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.
- For victims of trafficking in our own countries. May we have eyes to see and act to make our communities slave free.

Good and gracious God, 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

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