

Reflection & Prayer to End Human Trafficking

January 11 – February 8, 2025



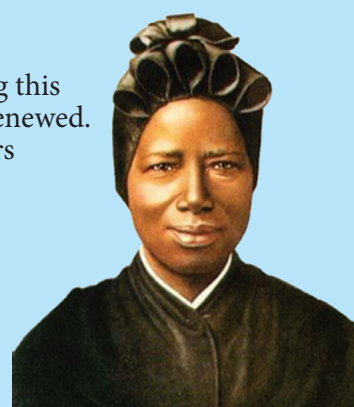
St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated brutally by her captors as she was sold and resold. She did not remember her name; Bakhita, which means “fortunate one,” was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

Daily Prayer

God of hope and peace, touch our hearts and energize our ongoing efforts in abolishing this 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 victims of environmental disasters who are forced to flee, making them prime targets of sex and labor trafficking.		12 We pray for refugee children who are displaced in neighboring host countries and forced to engage in child labor.	13 We pray for those who are victims of enslaved labor by a family member or friend and stay for food and shelter.	14 We pray for teenagers who face peer pressure or have poor self-image, who are befriended and then exploited by traffickers.
15 We pray for men exploited in the construction, agricultural, and industrial sectors due to the demand for cheap labor.	16 We pray for women and children who are displaced and separated due to environmental disasters.	17 We pray for people facing extreme poverty, which often forces them to search for a better life and fall into the hands of traffickers.	18 We pray for refugees with no access to humanitarian aid and other essential services, making them vulnerable to human trafficking.	19 We pray for advocates who work continuously to address the root causes of trafficking and protect vulnerable people.
20 We pray for unaccompanied minors who flee from their home countries to escape extreme war and violence.	21 We pray for those who work to serve and support human trafficking survivors. May they find courage and heal their souls.	22 We pray for the people who are at risk of being trafficked by organized trafficking rings embedded in refugee camps.	23 We pray for the eradication of a culture that accepts treating people, especially women and children, as objects.	24 We pray that we recognize that, as consumers, we benefit from exploited people who often make the goods we consume.
25 We pray for vulnerable members of our community who are victims of social exclusion and gender discrimination.	26 We pray for vulnerable women who are denied respect and their right to education, health care, and skills to survive.	27 We pray for young migrants, victims of child labor, who work in dangerous jobs and face exploitation.	28 We pray for all agricultural workers who work hard to harvest the food we eat and are usually exploited by their employers.	29 We pray for those who work in the hospitality industry, who educate and train employees to recognize and report sex trafficking.
30 We pray for men, women, and children fleeing disasters, famine, war, and violence only to be trafficked.	31 We pray for truckers who educate, equip, and mobilize other trucking and bus drivers to combat human trafficking.	Feb. 1 We pray for youth experiencing homelessness who are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation.	2 We pray for migrants facing the trauma of fleeing their homes, enabling them to easily be coerced into labor trafficking.	3 We pray for impoverished people challenged by hunger and desperation, making them more willing to take risks.
4 We pray for refugees, migrants, and internally displaced people who are trafficked and threatened if they try to escape.	5 We pray for LGBTQ+ youth and young adults who are at a higher risk of being trafficked due to culture-based prejudices.	6 We pray for child protection agencies working to protect and rescue children who are in danger of being abducted and exploited.	7 We pray for men who are often deemed as being strong enough to fight off traffickers, and they cannot be victims.	8 Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita We pray for the lives of all our brothers and sisters who are trafficked. May they be freed and find hope.

Human Trafficking: Understanding Root Causes

Human trafficking is **ethnically diverse**, and it is happening to **all socioeconomic classes**. It strikes **all genders** and ages **regardless of religious affiliations, sexual orientation, or country of origin**.

DO YOU KNOW WHY HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONTINUES TO INCREASE?

Human Trafficking has become the most lucrative crime business after drugs since the “merchandise” can be sold over and over again.

ROOT CAUSES:

Worldwide, root causes for human trafficking stem from social exclusion, gender discrimination, economic hardships, environmental disasters, and conflict that result from political or legal issues.

SOME ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS:

- Systemic poverty / economic inequality
- Land grabbing (small farmers forced from their lands)
- Large-scale agriculture (usually perpetrated by multi-national corporations)
- Lack of food / Wage and labor repression / Unemployment or lack of decent jobs
- Disenfranchised youth leading to gang violence
- Climate change / Environmental degradation / deforestation, mining / commercial overfishing
- Commodification of natural resources

SOME SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION CAUSES:

- Gender inequality (feminization of poverty, unpaid care work, gender-based wage gaps)
- Violence against women and girls (armed conflict, crisis and instability)
- Denial of women's rights (to education, health, participation, credit, skills, land/property)
- Multiple forms of discrimination (in economic, political, and private arenas, child marriage, caste systems, racism)
- Weakness of social protection (to pass and enforce protective legislation)

Addressing root causes and finding solutions can lead to **secure communities** that can **thrive** and **no longer need to migrate**. It can **reduce the number of victims of sex and labor trafficking, keep families together, protect vulnerable women and children, and save lives**.

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
1-888-373-3888**

**BEFREE Textline
233733**