

# Reflection & Prayer to End Human Trafficking

January 11 – February 8, 2018



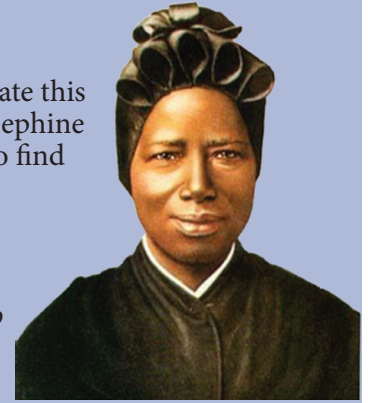
St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated brutally by her captors as she was sold and resold. She did not remember her name; Bakhita, which means “fortunate one,” was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

## Daily Prayer

God of mercy and love, give us hope and resilience as we continue our efforts to eradicate this crime against our vulnerable sisters and brothers around the world. You blessed St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan with love for others. May her prayers comfort and strengthen all who find themselves enslaved and hopeless for freedom.

*(Say appropriate daily prayer)*

Transform and heal the hearts of those who inflict pain and anguish on others so that victims are freed and protected. *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.*



<b>11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day</b> We pray for the millions of people around the world caught in modern-day slavery.		<b>12</b> We pray for the women and men who have been sexually harassed at work and are afraid to come forward.	<b>13</b> We pray for teens in an abusive relationship who are afraid to confide in their parents.	<b>14</b> We pray for the men around the world stripped of their passports and held against their will.
<b>15</b> We pray for those who face human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law.	<b>16</b> We pray for the displaced and refugee women who are greatly impacted by rape and sexual violence.	<b>17</b> We pray for young adults who have the highest risk of intimate partner violence and sexual assault.	<b>18</b> We pray for the defenders of women's rights worldwide who are exposed to imminent threats of violence.	<b>19</b> We pray for victims to be freed physically, emotionally and mentally.
<b>20</b> We pray that the human dignity of all immigrants be respected.	<b>21</b> We pray for the resilient women who have been groped, harassed, abused and/or exploited.	<b>22</b> We pray for communities to stand together against bullying and violence in their schools.	<b>23</b> We pray for children who are signed into bonded labor by their poverty-stricken families.	<b>24</b> We pray for the end of demand - that men recognize the dire consequences of buying sex.
<b>25</b> We pray for our homeless and runaway youth who are dangerously targeted by traffickers.	<b>26</b> We pray for farm workers, who bring food to our table, that they be treated justly.	<b>27</b> We pray for the millions of victims of forced labor worldwide.	<b>28</b> We pray for the young girls forced into prostitution at truck stops.	<b>29</b> We pray for those who find themselves trapped in unhealthy or aggressive dating relationships.
<b>30</b> We pray for the end of violence against women and respect of their human dignity.	<b>31</b> We pray for children around the world who are violently abducted and forced to be child soldiers.	<b>1</b> We pray for those who are forced to work in dangerous mines digging for minerals used in our electronics.	<b>2</b> We pray for all who work day and night to free the enslaved.	<b>3</b> We pray for young girls forced into sexual exploitation.
<b>4 Super Bowl Sunday</b> We pray for the success of the awareness campaign to discourage men from buying sex.	<b>5</b> We pray for children who are stolen from parents and used for the harvesting of organs worldwide.	<b>6</b> We pray for strength, hope and resilience for those who have been rescued.	<b>7</b> We pray for women and girls who have experienced sexual or physical violence at home.	<b>8 Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita</b> We pray for all women religious who work to end human trafficking.

# The Facts About Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery

- Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise of the 21st century, an estimated \$150 billion industry that is second only to drugs in terms of organized crime.<sup>1</sup>
- The U.S. Department of Labor has identified 139 goods from 75 countries made by forced and child labor.<sup>3</sup>
- California, Florida and New York are particularly vulnerable to this crime due proximity to international borders, airports and numerous ports.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2016, an estimated 1 out of 6 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely child sex trafficking victims.<sup>4</sup>

## What You Can Do

1. Learn the signs of human trafficking. Know the red flags and indicators of human trafficking - <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/recognize-signs>
2. Be a responsible consumer! Support socially responsible, organizations that sell fair trade/slave-free goods, etc.
3. Become politically active! Advocate for laws that will address all forms of human trafficking.
4. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 911 immediately.
5. Support/join local groups working to address human trafficking issues in your community.
6. If you believe you have information about a potential trafficking situation, report it! Do NOT approach a trafficker or attempt to rescue a victim. Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or Text 233733 (“BeFree”)<sup>5</sup>



1. International Labor Organization, 2014  
2. Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, CAST  
3, 4. Polaris Project  
5. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

**See something  
suspicious?**

**Call the National Human  
Trafficking Hotline**

**888-3737-888**