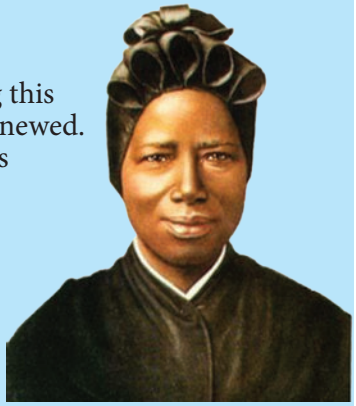
Reflection & Prayer to End Human Trafficking

January 11 – February 8, 2019

Sisters of St. Joseph OF ORANGE

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)*

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.*

11 **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** We pray for all the women, men and children living in slavery around the world today.		**12** We pray for the migrant builders in the Middle East who are paid less than $1/hour in a 20-hour workday.	**13** We pray for survivors rescued from traffickers, that they find a safe place to heal and recover.	**14** We pray for the distressed homeless teenager who is coerced into commercial sex on the street.
15 We pray for desperate men looking for work who are tricked into exploitative labor.	**16** We pray for the mom who had to flee her country to save her daughter from being sexually attacked by gangs.	**17** We pray for the women who are afraid for their safety, but find it difficult to leave the abusive relationship.	**18** We pray for freedom for all sex and labor trafficking victims enslaved around the world.	**19** We pray for the health and strength of those involved in protecting and providing services to survivors.
20 We pray for the courage and initiative to question corporations about who makes the clothes we wear.	**21** We pray for those enslaved in restaurants, cleaning services, construction, factories and nail salons.	**22** We pray for strength for those who prosecute traffickers and for courage for those who testify against them.	**23** We pray for LGBTQ+ boys and young men who are seen as particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking.	**24** We pray for the Burmese immigrants enslaved as workers on the high seas, catching the seafood that ends up on our plates.
25 We pray for the vulnerable migrant women at our borders who are at risk of being raped.	**26** We pray that our sister and brother survivors' shame and anguish be replaced with new joy and hope.	**27** We pray for those who are being trafficked by their partners and/or family members including parents.	**28** We pray for the men and women who are brainwashed and do not identify as being under the control of another person.	**29** We pray that corporations do the right thing and question their supply chains.
30 We pray for the innocent young girls and boys who are oblivious to online gaming predators.	**31** We pray for God to intervene in the lives of those who contribute to the demand of sexual exploitation.	**1** We pray that elected officials enact legislation that provides much needed shelter for survivors.	**2** We pray for young girls who are recruited into commercial sex by traffickers posing as online "boyfriends".	**3** **Super Bowl Sunday** We pray for the safety of officers who will stop traffickers from selling victims today.
4 We pray for young women who are offered fake modeling jobs, but then their nude pictures are posted online for commercial sex.	**5** We pray for health care professionals who play a key role in identifying the signs of potential trafficking victims.	**6** We pray for the 25 million victims who have been robbed of their freedom by a $150 billion global industry around the world.	**7** We pray for all the advocates and supporters who work to prevent, detect, and disrupt human trafficking around the world.	**8** **Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita** We gather in solidarity with all the enslaved. May the Grace of God touch the hearts of their abductors.

Designed by Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange - Dec. 2018

National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-3737-888

How are the Victims Trafficked?

Traffickers frequently prey on an individual's vulnerabilities.

The top five factors that may place victims at risk:

1. **RECENT MIGRATION OR RELOCATION**
2. **SUBSTANCE USE**
3. **RUNAWAY AND/OR HOMELESS YOUTH**
4. **MENTAL HEALTH CONCERN**
5. **INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM**

Most likely, these vulnerable victims were coerced through **isolation and emotional, economic, and/or physical abuse.**

Many victims do find assistance. Here are the top five points of access to help:

1. Interaction with family or friends
2. Interaction with criminal justice system/law enforcement
3. Access to health services
4. Access to general social services
5. Access to mobile apps or social media

Family and friends *play an important role in rescuing their relatives by finding ways to connect, relate and build trust with their loved ones.*

According to Polaris Project, every year more survivors contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline for help. And more individuals seek help for victims they know.

Our awareness can save someone's life. If we see something that is not right, if we suspect something is wrong, we can call the National Hotline. It only takes a suspicion.

See something suspicious?	National Hotline 888-3737-888	BEFREE Textline 233733

Source: https://polarisproject.org/2017statistics