

Anti-Trafficking Reparation, Prayer, and Awareness Group Format

**St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
Ann Arbor, Michigan**

Thank you for praying for the many issues surrounding human trafficking and its eradication. This is the first step in the work to fight human trafficking (HT), and undergirds the work in the field of those who fight this evil. The goal is to do a holy hour if possible, preferably before the monstrance when permitted.

In summary, we do the following, described in detail further down:

1. Opening prayer of reparation
2. Prayer to St. Bakhita & Rosary with special intentions
3. Divine Mercy Chaplet
4. Individual adoration/silent prayer if time permits

Important tip: It is important to pray the rosary and chaplet slowly and meditatively in order to engage both the mind and the heart. **St. Teresa of Avila tells us that both allow us to enter into true and great prayer.**

When new people are present, mention that you will be praying about human trafficking, the different forms of commercial sexual exploitation, and forced labor in all its forms. It is also a good idea to tell people that they may leave at any time if they can't stay for the whole hour.

1. Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to inspire, lead and guide you, and follow with *The Prayer of Consolation and Reparation to the Lamb of God* in the attending document.
2. Offer prayer to St. Bakhita, the patron saint of human trafficking, in your own words or using the formal prayer to her on page 14 of the [USCCB Anti-Trafficking Day of Prayer Tool Kit](#). It is followed by many other prayer intentions on the remaining pages regarding the fight against modern day slavery.

We recommend praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the rosary (regardless of the day) because of the gravity of the subject matter. The entire rosary should be offered for the primary intention of the conversion of perpetrators and the rescue and restoration of the victims, forgiving those who have abused them, and mentioned as the specific intention for the first decade. Before each of the following decades, read or put into your own words, several of the intentions from the suggested list below. (If your group only has 30 minutes to pray, just mention one intention before each decade.)

Thank you to St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan

Weekly, when possible, check out websites like the Samaritan Women, Shared Hope International, and ECPAT for the latest issues needing prayer. You may also sign up for the HT newsletter from the US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking at www.stopenslavement.org. This serves to educate and increase awareness for those praying, which is one of the goals of the group.

3. After the rosary, mention any of the further suggested intentions below or those that you have researched and pray the Divine Mercy chaplet.

4. During any remaining time left in the holy hour you may pray the two written prayers for victims and perpetrators in the attending document, or invite people to just pray in silence and make reparation as the Holy Spirit leads them.

Suggested Intentions before each Decade and Divine Mercy Chaplet

For the Holy Spirit to inspire, guide, and strengthen the USCCB Anti-trafficking team in their efforts to fight this evil with success in all that they do.

For the FBI and all government and law enforcement agencies who fight human trafficking, that they would have even more success uncovering trafficking rings, and for stronger sentences for traffickers as a deterrent to others.

For human trafficking in your state, and that all hidden trafficking in the suburbs, cities, and rural areas would be uncovered by local law enforcement.

That the Holy Spirit would awaken the Catholic faithful and all people of good will to care about this evil, raise up prayer groups in parishes around the world to fight it, and bring forth leaders to hold parish awareness events, for which there are many helps and tools ([USCCB Become a Shepherd](#)). There are other ideas there, too, such as their Stations of the Cross for Human Trafficking for parishes.

For God's blessing and favor upon the religious orders and all faith-based and secular groups that fight human trafficking, and for the financial and other resources needed to rescue and rehabilitate victims.

For the millions of men, women and children caught in labor trafficking, that they might be freed from their slavery and find a new life.

For protection from all traffickers who take advantage of the vulnerable during natural disasters, wars, etc., by befriending the orphans and victims who have lost everything, in order to enslave them.

Prayer for The Victims of Trafficking

Father, you know everything. You know by name every man, woman, and child on the face of the earth, whose human dignity and human bodies are at this very moment being abused and violated. Father, we are all made in your image to know, love, and serve you in this life and to be happy with you in the next. This is the destiny, the purpose for each one who has borne the lash of this scourge. Restore to them this destiny.

Dear Jesus, we unite all of our sufferings, words, deeds, thoughts, actions weaknesses, and nothingness to your sufferings, the sufferings of your Body throughout the earth. Multiply infinitely these offerings by your merits and apply your healing graces of mercy, deliverance and restoration to all these victims. Through our prayers, may they be undergirded and held up, waiting for their Savior.

Holy Spirit, fill them with faith to believe there is a God who loves them and has not forsaken them. Give them hope and love. Send all you have chosen for this work to their aid that you might be glorified.

Lord Jesus, you said you came to destroy the works of the Evil One. This you did on the cross, triumphing over sin and death. Complete this work in the lives of the victims and use us as your instruments in whatever way you will.

Prayer for Perpetrators of Trafficking

Father, St. Paul said in Romans 5:20 that where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more. We lift up to you the grave sin of human trafficking and cry out for the grace of conversion for all the perpetrators. Pour out a spirit of sorrow and repentance upon the traffickers who capture, transport, and exploit; the corrupt police and border patrols who betray; the brothel owners who enslave; and the buyers who abuse and exploit the millions of women and children caught in this world wide web of evil. Free them from their prisons of sin and immorality and open their eyes to the horror of their actions, that they might fall on their knees and cry out for mercy.

Father, you desire that all men might be saved. Open their ears to hear you calling them to come home as the prodigal son, whom you will gladly welcome, gladly forgive. But for those who refuse to turn from their wickedness, we pray that you send forth your justice that their evil deeds be stopped. Do not allow your enemies to trample the poor and the innocent we pray. "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down...to make your name known to your adversaries. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you who works for those who wait for him." *Isaiah 64:1-4.*

Prayer of Consolation and Reparation to the Lamb of God

Love, who is not loved, we come before you to love you. We are little souls who have nothing to offer you but our hearts, our lives, our prayers. We see you before us, a slain Lamb who lives.

Love, who is not loved, enlarge our hearts that we may love you more, and console you in the hearts of suffering humanity, especially the victims of human trafficking. Break our hearts with love for you, that we may make reparation for these grievous sins against men, women and children. May our hearts become like Mary's alabaster box filled with sweet perfume, broken open and poured out upon you. May this perfume of love be as the balm of Gilead unto you, and sweet ointments and medicine for your grieved and broken heart.

Lamb of God, we come before you as did the weeping women of Jerusalem, seeking to console you. Receive our feeble attempts to love you, to give you the honor and praise you deserve. Unite them with your desire to love and honor your Father in all things.

We offer you everything that we are, our hopes and dreams, our failures and successes, our joys and sufferings in atonement for our sins and the sins of the whole world. For the sake of his sorrowful passion, dear Father, have mercy on us and on the whole world, and especially on the victims and perpetrators of human trafficking.

Please feel free to contact Linda Horning at lhorning0526@gmail.com, from St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church if you would like to be on her mailing list for some of the latest HT news requiring prayer, which you could then forward to those in your prayer group.