

Reflection & Prayer to End Human Trafficking

January 11 – February 8, 2020



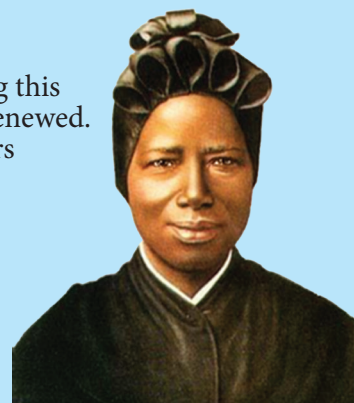
St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated brutally by her captors as she was sold and resold. She did not remember her name; Bakhita, which means “fortunate one,” was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

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 the women, men and children who have been dehumanized through abuse, degradation and exploitation.	12 We pray for the vulnerable migrants at our borders who are exposed to the danger of being trafficked.	13 We pray for those who commit collectively and tirelessly to end the enslavement of women, men and children.	14 We pray for the young women who are offered waitressing jobs in the city, but instead are sent to night clubs and coerced into sex slavery.
15 We pray leaders employ migration policies that grant migrants their fundamental and human rights.	16 We pray for the children and young adults in foster care as they are highly vulnerable to being trafficked.	17 We pray for women in Central America and the Caribbean where girls are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.	18 We pray for African boys as young as 12 who are enslaved in dangerous work in cocoa farms in the Ivory Coast.
20 We pray that today we start questioning who makes the clothes we wear and where they come from.	21 We pray for parents who think their kids are safe and protected just because they are home with their electronic devices.	22 We pray for those who work excessively long hours and are forced to live at their place of work.	23 We pray for the young victims of armed groups who traffic children for armed combat, forced marriage and sexual exploitation.
25 We pray for the predators. May they be touched by God's love and their hearts transformed.	26 We pray that chocolate companies move forward to eradicate child labor from their West African cocoa suppliers.	27 We pray for nannies and domestic workers who often work for very low wages under abusive working conditions.	28 We pray for the victims who are brainwashed and see their trafficker as a protector from their families and law enforcement.
30 We pray for girls and young women in the Middle East and Africa who are forced to marry and subjected to sexual exploitation.	31 We pray for the men who are hired in restaurants and are forced to work excessive hours, few breaks and no pay.	1 We pray for the parents of the missing child who was taken by a stranger he met through online gaming.	2 Super Bowl Sunday We pray that people attending the Super Bowl call to report any suspicious behavior.
4 We pray for the women and men who have been raped and are afraid to come forward in fear of being judged and/or blamed.	5 We pray that the neighbor who witnesses children doing mostly housework and not attend school to contact the authorities.	6 We pray for the vulnerable victims who are enslaved by their romantic partners or spouses.	7 We pray for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families who are often victims of labor trafficking in harvesting crops.
8 Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita We pray for the freedom of all who are enslaved. May they find courage and hope in their lives.			

Tips to Stay Safe and Protect Others

Suspicious or controlling relationships

Some relationships with signs of abuse and control could turn into human trafficking situations.

- If asked by a partner to do things you feel awkward doing, let your partner know and tell a trusted friend or relative.
- If traveling to an unfamiliar location, make sure a trusted friend or family member knows you are traveling with this person.
- Maintain access to all important documents and do not give your partner this information if feeling uneasy in doing so.
- Partner constantly checks on you and denies you contact with friends/family in attempts to isolate you from others.



Some employment opportunities may raise red flags for human trafficking.

Be on the lookout and make sure to:

- 🔒 Ask for information on the position that includes the type of work, hours and conditions.
- 🔒 At the time of the interview, make sure others know where you are going, what time is the appointment and the time you expect to return.
- 🔒 Make sure others are around or plan to meet in a public place.
- 🔒 Verify that the business is legitimate by asking for the Employer Identification Number (EIN). This information can be checked by calling the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at (800) 829-4933 (for U.S. businesses only).
- 🔒 For positions abroad, ask to speak with former employees/clients about their experience with the company.
- 🔒 Do not share personal information such as address or Social Security number if feeling uncomfortable.

OUR AWARENESS CAN SAVE US OR SOMEONE ELSE.

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**