

World Day Against **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

July 30, 2017



Leader: Without justice and love there will be no peace on Earth. Again and again people are trafficked; they are cheated of their rights, and so they live under degrading and insecure conditions. Very often they leave home to escape miserable living situations. Sometimes it means migrating to a foreign country and into an uncertain future. Let us pray that the justice and love that God has promised us will become reality here and now, today and wherever we live.

“The place where we are standing is holy ground.”

Sing: This is Holy Ground – We’re standing on Holy Ground – For the Lord is here and Where God is, is Holy. This is Holy Ground – We’re standing on Holy Ground – For the Lord is here and Where God is, is Holy.

First Reading: Migration and Human Trafficking

“The cruelty of the human traffickers preying on vulnerable refugees and migrants in Libya does not seem to have a limit,” said one Director of the UN High Commission on Refugees. After a video showing their abuse was posted on Facebook, two United Nations agencies voiced ‘deep concern’ for the safety of hundreds of migrants and refugees – including many children – held captive by smugglers or criminal gangs at the unknown location in Libya. While a huge part of the world’s responsibility to provide sanctuary and support to migrating families is shouldered by neighboring host countries, this has become a global crisis and many other countries need to share fairly the responsibility to protect refugees from human traffickers.

Pause for Reflection

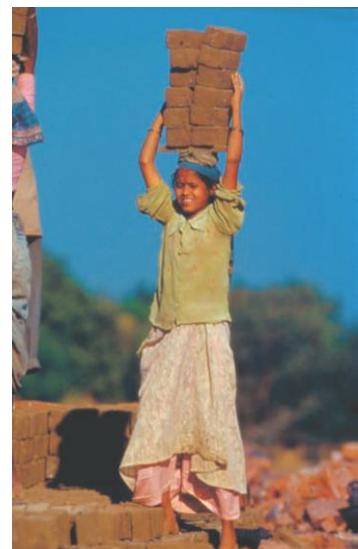
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Second Reading: Children in Forced Labor

As the world strives to achieve the elimination of child labor by 2025, the UN underlined the conflicts and disasters which have a devastating impact on children, many of whom flee their own country unaccompanied by any adult. They kill, maim, injure and force people including children to flee their homes; destroy livelihoods, push people into poverty and starvation, and traffic many into situations without basic safeguard for their rights.

The first to suffer from human rights violations and abuses, by human traffickers are often boys and girls. Their schools are destroyed and basic services are disrupted. Many children are internally displaced or become refugees in other countries, and are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and child labor.

Today, we are facing the greatest refugee crisis for decades, which is the main driver of child labor. Globally over 1.5 billion people live in countries that are affected by conflict, violence and fragility. At the same time, every year around 200 million people are affected by natural disasters and other disasters caused by humans.



Pause for Reflection

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Third Reading: *Laudato Si*

127. We are convinced that human persons are “the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life”. Nonetheless, once our human capacity for contemplation and reverence is impaired, it becomes easy for the meaning of work to be misunderstood. We need to remember that men and women have “the capacity to improve their lot, to further their moral growth and to develop their spiritual endowments”. Work should be the setting for this rich personal growth, where many aspects of life enter into play: creativity, planning for the future, developing our talents, living out our values, relating to others, giving glory to God. It follows that, in the reality of today’s global society, it is essential that “we continue to prioritize the goal of access to steady employment for everyone”, no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning.

Pause for Reflection



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Let Us Together Offer Our Prayers of Petition and Thanksgiving

Jesus you crossed every border between Divinity and humanity to make your home with us. Help us to welcome you in - as victims of human trafficking, migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, we pray . . .

You bless our land richly with goods of creation and with people made in your image. Help us to live as good stewards and peacemakers, who live as your children, we pray . . .

You work in the hearts of all to bring about harmony and goodwill. Strengthen us to welcome those from other lands, cultures, religions, and from circumstances very different than ours so that we may live in human solidarity and in hope, we pray . . .

To see your presence in our midst is our hope. Give us courage to open the door to our neighbors and give us grace to build a society of justice, we pray . . .

Let Us Conclude Our Prayer

All: Our God, you have given us in your word the stories of Abraham, Sarah, Ruth and Moses who needed to leave their homeland.

You have chosen that the life of Jesus be filled with events of unplanned travel and flight from enemies. You have shown us through the modeling of Jesus how we are called to relate to persons from different situations and cultures.

You have called us to be teachers of your word. We ask you, our God, to open our minds and hearts to challenge and invite our government officials to work for policies which provide safety for victims of trafficking, opportunities preventing future exploitation of women, men, and children, and a welcoming home right here for all migrants and refugees. Amen.

Possible Actions

Find out about the **Fair Food Program**:

<http://www.fairfoodprogram.org/>

Discover information concerning the **Apparel Industry**:

<http://www.iccr.org/our-issues/human-rights/iccr-bangladesh-initiative>

See what's happening in the **Sea Food Business**:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/series/modern-day-slavery-in-focus+world/thailand>

Gather some more information on **Migrants**:

[refugees and migrants](#)

