



2026 St. Josephine Bakhita Prayer Resource

SSND Shalom North America

Song Suggestions

We Sing For Freedom - John Burland – (*music begins at 15-second mark*)

Oh Truly Lucky One – Niel De Mesa

Introduction/Opening



St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She experienced the humiliations and sufferings of slavery, both physical and moral. Eventually, the family who owned her arrived in Italy. Bakhita met the Canossian Sisters who facilitated her baptism, “Josephine”, and escape captivity. In 1893, Josephine entered the novitiate of the Canossian Sisters and ministered until her death on February 8, 1947. She was canonized on October 1, 2000, and named Patron Saint of Trafficking Victims. We unite in prayer, affirming that ending human trafficking is both a moral and spiritual call.

“Saint Bakhita encourages us to open our eyes and ears to see those who go unseen and to hear those who have no voice, to acknowledge the dignity of each person and to fight trafficking and all forms of exploitation.” – Pope Francis

Reading

“The condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church. On the wounded faces of the poor, we see the suffering of the innocent and, therefore, the suffering of Christ himself. At the same time, we should perhaps speak more correctly of the many faces of the poor and of poverty, since it is a multifaceted phenomenon. In fact, there are many forms of poverty: the poverty of those who lack material means of subsistence, the poverty of those who are socially marginalized and lack the means to give voice to their dignity and abilities, moral and spiritual poverty, cultural poverty, the poverty of those who find themselves in a condition of personal or social weakness or fragility, the poverty of those who have no rights, no space, no freedom.” (Paragraph 9 of [Pope Leo’s Dilexi Te](#))

How do human trafficking victims meet Pope Leo’s definition of the poor?

Litany of Saint Josephine Bakhita

- 1.) Blessed Trinity, hear us: **Blessed Trinity, graciously hear us**
Holy Mary, **Pray for us**
St. Joseph, **Pray for us**
St. Magdalen of Canossa, **Pray for us**
St. Josephine Bakhita, **Pray for us**
- 2.) Flower of Sudan, **Pray for us**
Universal Sister, **Pray for us**
Model of Hope, **Pray for us**
Child slave, **Pray for us**
The Fortunate One, **Pray for us**
Daughter of God, **Pray for us**
- 3.) Bakhita, most innocent, **Pray for us**
Bakhita, most forgiving, **Pray for us**
Bakhita, most courageous, **Pray for us**
Bakhita, most free, **Pray for us**
Bakhita, most prayerful, **Pray for us**
Bakhita, most faithful, **Pray for us**
- 4.) Powerful Intercessor for those in need, **Pray for them**
Patroness for the people of Sudan, **Pray for them**
Hope for trafficked children, **Pray for them**
Protector of trafficking survivors, **Pray for them**

Adapted from: <https://stjbphx.org/litany-of-st-josephine-bakhita>

Reading

"**Every individual**, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh (cf. [Jn 1:14](#)), is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church's very heart; it cannot but affect her at the core of her faith in the Redemptive Incarnation of the Son of God, and engage her in her mission of proclaiming the Gospel of life in all the world and to every creature (cf. [Mk 16:15](#))." (St. John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life* [*Evangelium vitae*], no. 3)

Prayer Petitions

St. Josephine Bakhita, intercede for us as we lift these prayers:

Response: God of freedom, compassion, and justice, draw near.

For renewed understanding of the dignity of the human person and the restoration of fundamental human rights to everyone, we pray: R/

For children caught in the commercial sex industry and young adults who run away from foster care and are coerced into trafficking, we pray: R/

For migrant workers who live and work in isolated conditions and are forbidden to leave their place of employment, we pray: R/

For perpetrators of human trafficking, that they repent of their evil ways and turn to God for forgiveness, we pray: R/

For agencies and organizations committed to combatting trafficking, may they have the strength and wisdom to accompany survivors on their path to healing and wholeness, we pray: R/

For the people of Sudan, that the violence and war may cease, we pray: R/

God of hope and peace, touch our hearts and energize our ongoing efforts in abolishing human trafficking so that every victim is freed and every survivor's life is renewed.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, on this feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita, we honor her journey from suffering to freedom and her radiant witness of hope. Like Bakhita, who embraced forgiveness and lived as a servant of love, inspire us to walk humbly and courageously in solidarity with those who are oppressed and marginalized, especially with the victims of human trafficking.

Guided by the call of our 25th General Chapter—to deepen communion, heal divisions, and educate for transformation—may we, like Bakhita, become instruments of reconciliation and builders of inclusive communities. Strengthen us to care for our common home and to proclaim Christ’s liberating love through every act of justice and compassion. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Songs

Lead Me, Lord – John Becker

Go Make a Difference – Steve Angrisano