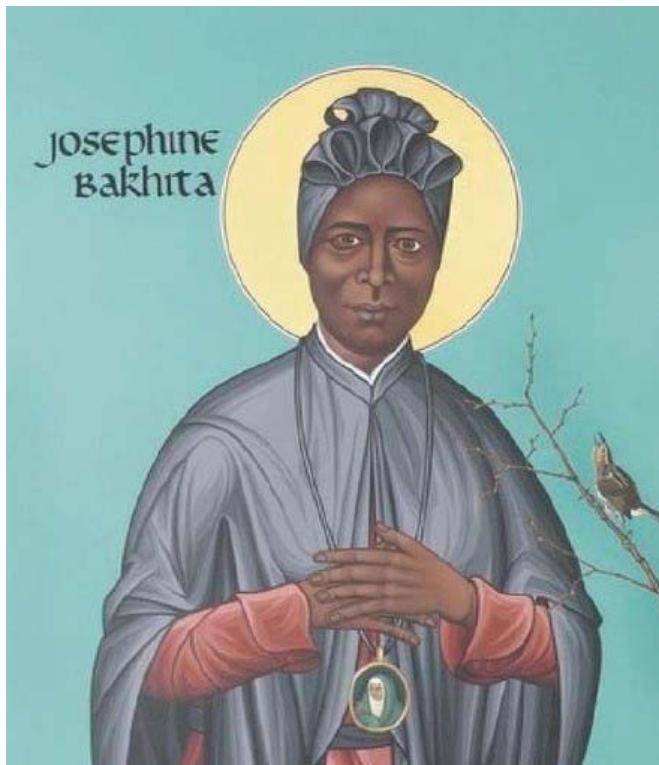


World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action Against Human Trafficking



Saint Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child
And endured unspeakable hardship and suffering.
Once liberated from your physical enslavement,
You found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and
his Church.

O Saint Josephine Bakhita,
Assist all those who are entrapped in slavery;
Intercede on their behalf with the God of Mercy so that the
chains of their captivity will be broken.
May God himself free all those who have been threatened,
Wounded, or mistreated by the trade and trafficking of human
beings.

Bring comfort to survivors of this slavery and
Teach them to look to Jesus as an example of hope and faith
So that they may find healing from their wounds.
We ask you to pray for us and to intercede on behalf of us all:
That we may not fall into indifference,
That we may open our eyes and be able to see
The misery and wounds of our many brothers and sisters de-
prived of their dignity and their freedom,
And may we hear their cry for help.

Amen

February 8 is the **World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action Against Human Trafficking**. There are currently 40 million victims of slavery worldwide (including the United States), one in four of whom are children. Pope Francis said that *“Modern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labor, and prostitution is a crime against humanity. Its victims are from all walks of life but are most frequently among the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters.”*

February 8 is also the **Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita**, born in Sudan and kidnapped and enslaved as a young child. Subjected to extreme brutality over the course of the next 12 years, St. Josephine Bakhita came under the protection of the Cannosian Sisters in Venice, converted to Christianity, and became a Cannosian Sister in 1896, where she lived until her death in 1947. She was canonized in 2000 and was adopted as the patron saint of human trafficking survivors.

What Can You Do?

Educate yourself about the scourge of human trafficking. Find resources at [Human Trafficking - Migration and Refugee Services | USCCB](#) and [Anti-Trafficking Resource Page – Justice for Immigrants](#)

Urge your elected officials to support legislation to protect the vulnerable

Use social media to inform others about the existence of human-trafficking

Host an informational screening of videos that explore the issue of trafficking

Pray for the victims of human trafficking in your community and around the world