

Province V

Human Trafficking Prayer Service. Monday July 31, 2023

Our Speakers: Rachel Socorro, Survivor Leader/Director and Bronsen Landrum, Survivor Specialist/President.

From: Total Life Wellness - A Survivor-led, Jesus-centered organization that helps survivors of trauma (specifically human trafficking) grow, heal and rebuild their life.

Website: <https://totallifewellness21.wixsite.com/total-life-wellnes-2>

Background

The U.N. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons was yesterday, July 30th. This campaign aimed to raise awareness of disturbing developments and trends identified by the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) and called on governments, law enforcement, public services and civil society to assess and enhance their efforts to strengthen prevention and identify and support victims. The Church has a place in these efforts. The UN's theme for 2023 is "Reach Every Victim of Trafficking, Leave no one behind". We can help by supporting victim-survivors once they are free from their traffickers. We can, using Christ as our guide, help sensitize everyone to the topic of human trafficking and thus push attention towards those who can help make a difference.

Introduction

Human trafficking is the recruitment and transport of a child or adult for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Sadly, there are more people enslaved today than at the height of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The enslavement of God's children breaks God's heart. Learn more about human trafficking and join us in prayer for an end to the injustice of human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

Opening Prayer

May we be blessed with the discomfort with easy answers,
half-truths and superficial relationships,
so that our lives have depth and vision.

May we be blessed with courage to confront injustice
and exploitation of people,
so that we work for justice and peace.

May we be blessed with tears to shed for those who suffer,
so that we reach out to comfort them.
to turn their pain into joy.

May we be blessed with enough faith and "foolishness"
to believe that we can make a difference in this world,
and do what others claim cannot be done.

-based on a Franciscan prayer

Readings

Lamentations 5:1, 11, 13, 15

Oh God, remember what has happened to us;
consider and see our degradation.

The women in Zion have been raped,
the young girls in the town of Judah.

Youths have been put to the mill,
boys stagger under loads of wood.

Joy has vanished from our hearts;
Our dancing has turned to mourning.

Matthew 19:13-14

Then the little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Mark 9:36-37

Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Intercessions

➔ [Leader] With your Zoom muted, please reply to "We pray to the Lord" with the response
"God of hope, set us free."

For children objectified in the commercial sex industry and young adults who run away from foster care and are coerced into trafficking. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For women trafficked by their spouses, romantic partners, parents, or family members. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For migrant workers who live and work in isolated conditions and are forbidden to leave their place of employment. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For adults and children coerced and forced into providing images and videos for the pornography industry. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For those committed to combatting trafficking, may they increase their awareness about this scourge, and may God give them the strength to accompany survivors on their path to healing and wholeness. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For perpetrators of human trafficking, that they repent of their evil ways and turn to God for forgiveness. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

(chausa.Org) Catholic Health Association of United States

For an exposure of human trafficking rings around the world and that traffickers would be brought to swift justice (*see Luke 12:2; Ps. 7:9*). Decree every person preying on children or luring people into human trafficking is detected and dealt with justly and swiftly (*see John 1:5; Deut. 32:4; Ps. 9:7-8*)

We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For legislation to be enacted that makes it easier to arrest, charge and prosecute human traffickers. We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For justice, salvation, and healing of human trafficking victims (*see Ps. 146:7; Luke 19:10; Jer. 30:17*). We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

For those affected by human trafficking to experience the love of God in a fresh new way and that they will turn their hearts to Him as Abba Father (*John 3:16, Rom. 8:35-39*). We pray to the Lord, **God of hope, set us free.**

www.awakeningprayerhubs.com.

A Prayer for action.

Dear Lord, just as You helped Moses and Aaron as they spoke boldly to Pharaoh on behalf of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt, help us speak up for modern-day slaves around the world. We pray that through our actions we can help bring an end to human trafficking.

Prayer for prevention.

Dear Lord, most of us will never experience the kind of extreme poverty that millions of people live with every day. Help us to be understanding and compassionate toward their needs. Help us to love them in the way that You love them with the resources and abilities You've given to each of us. Help us to support people who are left newly impoverished because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Give us the will to make things better and the opportunity to act.

Prayer for protection.

Dear Lord, You are a strong tower and a mighty fortress. Help Your rescued children feel safe and begin to heal. Protect them from others who seek to harm them.

Prayer for restoration.

Dear Lord, Your Word shows that You bring new joy and hope where previously there was only shame and fear. We ask this for our brothers and sisters, who desperately need to accept that they can be made new.

[Prayer for an end to human trafficking | World Vision](https://www.worldvision.org/child-protection-news-stories/pray-end-human-trafficking)

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Speakers:

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Moment of Reflection (if there's time):

What in my/our style of life contributes to the reality of child slavery and forced labor?

What can I/we do to change the unjust structures that cause suffering from child slavery, forced labor and human trafficking?

Closing Prayer:

Let us pray: Compassionate and loving Creator of all, we thank you for the gift of time to ponder the horrific realities of human trafficking. We pledge to do what is possible to stop this local and global tragedy. May our efforts, combined with efforts of our local and global siblings transform local and global trafficking realities into dignity and justice for all. This we ask with great confidence in you, our compassionate and loving Creator of all. **Amen.**