

## Novena for Victims of Slavery and Human Trafficking

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and January 11th is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

February 8th is the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Trafficking.

February 8th is also the Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita. Pope St John Paul II canonized St Bakhita in 2000, said: “Abducted and sold into slavery at the tender age of seven, she suffered much at the hands of cruel masters. But she came to understand the profound truth that God, and not man, is the true Master of every human being, of every human life.” She won her freedom and became a Canossian Nun, dedicating her life to comforting the poor and suffering, and serving as a witness against slavery.

Pope St John Paul II added:

*“I invite the whole Church to invoke the intercession of St Bakhita upon all our persecuted and enslaved brothers and sisters.”*

This Novena for Victims of Slavery and Human Trafficking is brought to you by OLQM’s Catholic Social Teaching Committee.

If you would like to learn more about our work, please see the parish website, at <https://ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/cst-committee/>.



Saint Josephine Bakhita

*Living a Life of Radical Solidarity with those Suffering  
from Slavery and Human Trafficking*

*Pray for those suffering from slavery and human trafficking.*

*Learn more about human trafficking and slavery via the DHS Blue Campaign (at <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>) and the US Conference of Catholic Bishop's anti-trafficking program (at <https://www.usccb.org/topics/anti-trafficking-program>).*

*Be a conscientious consumer. Don't buy products or services that support slavery, child labor or unfair labor practices. Consider the US Dept of Labor's "Sweat and Toil" app.*

*Protect our children. Teach your children how to recognize dangerous invitations and situations. Monitor their internet use.*

*Recognize the indicators of human trafficking and report suspicious activity to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1.888.373.7888. Don't confront suspected traffickers!*

*Learn about the legislative issues affecting human slavery and trafficking, and sign up for "Action Alerts" from the New York State Catholic Conference.*



*"Go forth with courage! May the Lord bless you and may Our Lady protect you. May Saint Bakhita pray with us and for us. I offer my heartfelt blessing to all of you who work against trafficking and every person you meet on this journey for dignity." (Pope Francis, 10 February 2023)*

**A Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita**

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

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trafficked and trapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity.

Provide comfort to survivors of trafficking and slavery, and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith.

Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.

**All** Our Father...  
Hail Mary...  
Glory be...