

PRAYER AND ACTION FOR

**National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**This January, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the Office of Peace, Justice, and Integrity of Creation offers these resources and actions for your prayer and witness. Through this season and beyond we dedicate ourselves to the vision of a world without human trafficking, which Pope Francis calls “an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ”.**

**Witness & Grace: A Conversation on Anti-Human Trafficking**  
January 19, 2021 | 3 pm EST | Sponsored by Global Sisters Report

**A Victim Centered Approach to Healthcare for Survivors**  
January 25, 2021 | 6:30 pm EST | Sponsored by the John S. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy at the University of Saint Thomas

**Prayer Service, Survivor’s Panel and Mass Honoring the International Day of Prayer & Awareness of Human Trafficking | February 8, 2021 | 10 am EST**

**Saint Josephine Bakhita**

PATRON SAINT OF VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING



February 8<sup>th</sup> is an important date in the Catholic calendar. Pope Francis has proclaimed Feb. 8 the “International Day of Prayer and Awareness on Human Trafficking.” to commemorate the life of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese woman who was kidnapped into slavery in the 1800s, purchased by an Italian diplomat, welcomed by a convent to become a nun, and canonized by Pope Saint John Paul II in 2000 as a saint. Her humility, her simplicity and her constant smile won the hearts of the people she served. Her sisters in the community esteemed her for her inalterable sweet nature, her goodness and her deep desire to make the Lord known.

“Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!”

Saint Josephine Bakhita, Pray for Us!

**Resources for Responsible Consumerism**

**Sign the Child Safety Pledge**

**Review a List of Goods  
That Use Child Labor**

**Learn About Ethical Shopping**

**Pray for an End to Trafficking**

# How Can We Fight Human Trafficking?

While child labor may not be directly visible in your day-to-day life, you may be surprised to learn that dozens of the things you own and goods you consume could have been made by the hands of a child.

Consider this — within the first hour you're awake, the coffee you drink, the shirt you put on or the makeup you use may all have been made by child labor. How can we be sure the products we buy are made without child labor? The unsatisfying answer is that it's very hard to be certain about what is and is not made with child labor. Child labor is often hidden deep within supply chains. In the future, we may have reliable certification schemes backed by technology to ensure that goods are made without child labor. For now, we do know that we can rely on certifications such as GoodWeave, which ensures that their products have not been made by children.

**[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE PRICE OF FREE](#)**

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## **An Intercessory Prayer for an End to Trafficking**

**Response: We pray, God of Hope, Set us Free.**

**For everyone who is trapped in a situation of slavery, that God will help to liberate them from their chains, we pray to the Lord.**

**For those caught up in a situation of human trafficking, that their perpetrators be brought to justice and that they might find a path to healing, we pray to the Lord.**

**For survivors of trafficking, that God guide them to a path down which they might find wholeness and peace, we pray to the Lord.**

**For policy makers in our nation, that God grants them the wisdom to enact laws that provide protection for victims and survivors of trafficking, we pray to the Lord.**

**For all Catholics, that God inspire them to act in their local communities to support and protect survivors of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.**

**For perpetrators of slavery, that they repent of their evil ways and turn to God for forgiveness, we pray to the Lord.**