

6. For all children enslaved in different forms through manual work, begging, removal of organs, illegal adoption or forced to be soldiers, becoming tools for violence, hatred and war. May God rescue them. **Rif.**

7. For the conversion of heart and mind of the perpetrators and organizers of human trafficking, including those who benefit from such a market. **Rif.**

**Leader:** For the success of the efforts to stop the demand for human trafficking we turn to God in prayer as we sing the prayer of the **Our Father.**

**Leader:** In St. J. Bakhita we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires the firm resolution to work effectively to free **girls and women victims** from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights and freedom.

**Final Prayer together:** Let us pray: God of hope and freedom, inspire and strengthen us in our work to break the chains of human trafficking in our world, so that like St. Josephine Bakhita, we may stand firm in our commitment to create a slave-free world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Concluding Song: The Spirit lives to set us free**

1. The Spirit lives to set us free - walk, walk in the light.

He binds us all in unity - walk, walk in the light.

**Ref.** *Walk in the light, walk in the light*

*Walk in the light, walk in light of the Lord.*

2. He died in pain on Calvary - walk, walk in the light.

To save the lost like you and me - walk, walk in the light.

3. We know his death was not the end - walk, walk in the light.

He gave his Spirit to be our friend - walk, walk in the light. **Ref.**

4. By Jesus' love our wounds are healed - walk, walk in the light.

The Father's kindness is revealed - walk, walk in the light. **Ref.**

5. The Spirit lives in you and me - walk, walk in the light.

His light will shine for all to see - walk, walk in the light. **Ref.**

**Leader:** May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **All:** Amen

**Leader:** May we go out to proclaim the good news of salvation where nobody can experience violence, exploitation, humiliation and slavery. **All:** Amen

**Leader:** Let us go to work and build bridges of unity, solidarity and communion in Jesus name; **AMEN.**



**8 February 2015**  
**Prayer service**  
**Against Trafficking**  
**in Human Beings**



**Introduction:** Today, on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer against all forms of slavery and on the feast day of Saint Josephine Bakhita we gather in solidarity with the Church all over the world to pray for and with victims of human trafficking. In prayer we want to reflect on the global situation of violence and injustice touching many people in the world without voice because they do not count, they are no one: they are simply slaves. We want to commit ourselves to fight against all forms of slavery mainly through prayer and our concrete actions to stop trafficking.

From Pope Francis statement on human trafficking we read: *“Human Trafficking is a crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free victims and stop this crime that’s become even more aggressive, that threatens not just individuals, but the foundational values of society, international security and laws, the economy, families and communities”.*

### **Opening Song: God’s spirit is in my heart**

1. God's spirit is in my heart. He has called me and set me apart.

This is what I have to do, what I have to do.

**Ref.** *He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,*

*Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,*

*Tell blind people that they can see, and set the downtrodden free,*

*And go tell everyone the news that the Kingdom of God has come,*

*And go tell everyone the news that God's kingdom has come.*

2. Just as the Father sent me, so I'm sending you out to be

My witnesses throughout the world, the whole of the world. **Ref.**

**Leader:** Let us begin our prayer service by observing a moment of silence in solidarity with more than 27 million women, men and children who suffer each day from modern day slavery. *(Moment of Silence)*

**Leader:** Each person forced into slavery has a personal story...a story of violence and struggles, hopes and dreams. Let us listen to the story of Bakhita, a survivor of human trafficking.

**Reader 1:** St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Sold and resold in the markets of El Obeid and Karthoum, she was treated brutally by her captors. She did not remember the name she was given by her parents. Bakhita, which means “fortunate one,” was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

**Ref. *The Lord hears the cry of the poor, blessed be the Lord.***

**Reader 2:** In 1883, Bakhita was bought by an Italian diplomat who took her to Italy to work as a maid for the daughter of a family friend who was studying in a college of the Canossian Daughters of Charity. It was there that Bakhita came to know about God whom “she had experienced in her heart without knowing” who God was. In 1890, she was baptized and received the name Josephine. **Ref.**

**Reader 1:** Later, the Italian family came to take their “property” back to Africa. Josephine expressed her desire to stay. When the family insisted she had to go, she remained firm, later she wrote: “I am sure the Lord gave me strength at that moment.” With the support of the Sisters she won her freedom and later she became a nun. For the next 50 years she lived a life of prayer and service as a Canossian Sister before her death in 1947. **Ref.**

**Reader 2:** St. Josephine was canonized in 2000 and now we hope and pray she will soon be declared to be a special patron saint of all those people kidnapped, trafficked and enslaved, mainly young women and children. **Ref.**

**Comments:** *Jesus came to bring the good news of salvation to all people and free them from all sorts of slavery, exploitation and oppression.*

**Lk. 4, 18-21** *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

*And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

**Leader:** We too are called to free people from bondage and fulfil what we heard from Jesus. With a song we express our desire to be called and sent to

free people enslaved in different ways. Nobody is born to be a slave, but we are born to enjoy the freedom of the children of God.

**Song: Here I am, Lord**

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people's cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**Ref.** *Here I am Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have bore, my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone; give them hearts for love alone  
I will speak my Word to them, whom shall I send? **Ref.**

**Our petition to end human trafficking**

**Leader:** We are aware that many people even today are victims of human trafficking in many ways and for different reasons. As we are reminded about the many stories of suffering and humiliation of survivors of human beings, we pray for strength for those who are still enslaved. We too are also called to work to create a world where no one can still live in bondage and slavery.

**Ref. *O Lord hear our prayer, o Lord make people free***

1. May human dignity be restored to those who have been bought, sold or kidnapped for the financial benefit of unscrupulous traffickers. **Rif**
2. For those in bonded labor, in agricultural fields, mines and factories that have been reduced to tools of production, commodities and no longer considered as human beings. **Rif.**
3. For those who cannot return home due to stigma of prostitution, disease or shame, that they may receive understanding, treatment, comfort and support.
4. For women who are estimated to make up 80% of human trafficking, victims of a cultural attitude of pleasure and money at all cost. May **they** find help to regain their respect, dignity and freedom. **Rif.**
5. For victims of trafficking in our own local communities and countries. May we have eyes **of** compassion to see and act to make our communities slave free. **Rif.**