

## **THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Let's change the NIGHT into the POWER of MERCY!**

*“What good would it do to open all the Holy Doors of the world if the doors of our own heart are closed.” Pope Francis*

On February 8, the Feast of St. Bakhita, we will have a possibility to open our hearts widely to express our solidarity with **people whom the world with its lust have made modern slaves.**

Nowadays, human trafficking is a crime which cannot leave us indifferent. It is estimated that it affects 27 million women, men and children around the world. They are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labour, begging, and illegal organ removal.

Last year Pope Francis announced on the Feast of St. Bakhita, a Sudanese slave, **the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.** In the Jubilee Year of Mercy let us pray for victims of human trafficking even more eagerly. Let us search for solutions to counter this procedure and help victims. Sometimes we can ask, “How can we do that?”, “How to counteract it?”. We feel helpless in the face of such evil. Let us not expect to do great things but take simple actions.

**Change the NIGHT into the POWER of MERCY!**

**Let us pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 a.m. and ask for mercy for victims of human trafficking and traffickers and pimps.**

**Why 3 a.m.?** At night a lot of evil is done. Victims of human trafficking experience exploitation and humiliation. At night the tears of shame, anguish, helplessness and longing for the lost freedom flow. At night struggle and spiritual battle with the powers of darkness is fought. But we believe that the world and all authority and power belong to God! Therefore, at that night let's get up and start to pray so that God will show the power of his mercy in the lives of all the oppressed.

**Why the Chaplet of Divine Mercy?** In the Year of Mercy let us say this prayer for victims of human trafficking because the Compassionate Heart of the Father desires their liberation. Let us pray for the perpetrators so that they are open to the transforming power of God and change their lives. Let us pray also for ourselves so as not to use others, but have sensitive hearts to injustice and misery.

*“Amid a culture of indifference which not infrequently turns ruthless, our style of life should instead be devout, filled with empathy, compassion and mercy, drawn daily from the wellspring of prayer.” (Pope Francis, Midnight Mass, 2015)*

**Let us be courageous enough to show our support and interest! Let us pass this message on to others! May the prayer for mercy on them and on the whole world be heard in many places.**

**Bakhita Network**

The Committee for the Prevention and Help for Victims of Modern Forms of Slavery, under the umbrella of the Conference of Major Superiors of Female Religious Orders in Poland