



FEBRUARY 8 - International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking and Feast Day of Saint Josephine Bakhita.

Do you know Saint Josephine Bakhita? Bakhita was born in Sudan. She was kidnapped at the age of 7 and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. She was freed and later became a Christian and Canossian Sister. She was proclaimed Saint in 2000.



The theme this year is: "Together against human trafficking." This requires us to coordinate our actions and unite our strengths. "Together against human trafficking" is the invitation addressed to everyone, according to their own possibilities.

【Reference】 Talitha Kum <u>website</u>

Figlie Della Carità Canossiane <u>website</u>

Cannosian Daughters of Charity Japan <u>website</u>

"APOSTLIC EXHORTATION: GAUDETE ET EXSULATE" 32



God wants us all to be holy and happy. By trusting in God's Love, sets us free from every form of enslavement and leads us to recognize our great dignity and be true to our deepest self. Pope Francis emphasizes that we see this great wisdom in Saint Josephine Bakhita.

Let us pray:

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

O Saint Josephine Bakhita, assist all those who are entrapped in slavery;

Intercede on their behalf with the God of Mercy so that the chains of their captivity will be broken.

May God himself free all those who have been threatened, wounded or mistreated by the trade and trafficking of human beings.

Bring comfort to survivors of this slavery and teach them to look to Jesus as an example of hope and faith so that they may find healing from their wounds.

We ask you to pray for us and to intercede on behalf of us all: that we may not fall into indifference, that we may open our eyes and be able to see the misery and wounds of our many brothers and sisters deprived of their dignity and their freedom, and may we hear their cry for help.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.