

World Day Against Human Trafficking in Persons



Setting: Globe, bowl of water and leafy branch beside it.

Song: A song to the Spirit or Light to the World

Introduction:

“Human Trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity.”

(Words of Pope Francis spoken to members of Renate: Religious in Europe Networking against Trafficking and Exploitation)



Meditation:

These words of Pope Francis remind us of the enormous and often silent efforts which have been made for many years by religious congregations to care for those wounded in their

dignity and scarred by their experience. In the United States, our main organization is called US Sisters Against Human Trafficking. We are learning to gather data, more than 32,000 cases of Human Trafficking between December 2007 and December 2016 through the operation of the National Human Trafficking Hotline. So far, the largest amount of data has been gathered from sex trafficking with escort services to labor trafficking of farm workers. The ways humans are exploited differ greatly. Each type has unique strategies for recruiting,

controlling victims and concealing crimes. We are learning to inform hotel managers and airlines to deepen awareness of all around us. We are women accompanying women and children on a deeply personal journey of healing and reintegration.

Silence: followed by a period of Sharing

Word of God: Is.58:6

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen—to loosen the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke; to set the oppressed free and break every yoke.



Silence

Reading (taken from *The Love of Eternal Wisdom: A revisioning of St. Louis de Montfort's Contemplation on Divine Wisdom* by Rabbi Rami Shapiro)

On the subject of Justice:

Wisdom is the activity of all action (Wisdom 7:24) and calls you to engage the world even as she frees you from the worldly. She makes you a beacon for goodness and fairness. She will protect you from trouble, but make you troublesome to those who seek to advance on the backs of others. You will face temptations and hardships. Some will befriend you and others will betray you, but through it all trust her searing love, making you a vessel of divine light. (LEW #100)

Silence/ sharing

Prayer to Marie Louise: Blessed Marie Louise, give us your heart impassioned by Wisdom Incarnate in every misery, keep us the humble servant of the lowly, the oppressed, the deprived, teach us your courage and daring and make us share in your folly. Amen



Prayer of Intercession:

Our response is: Hear
the Cry of the Earth!
Hear the Cry of the
Poor!

For our Bishops that
they may continue to be
leaders in the fight

against modern day slavery both domestically and abroad. **R.**

For our religious brothers and sisters that God inspire them with the continual
commitment to fight the evil of Human Trafficking. **R**

For all Catholics that God inspire them to take action in their local communities to
support and protect survivors of Human Trafficking. **R.**

For everyone trapped in a situation of slavery that God will help liberate them
from their chains. **R.**

For an end to Human Trafficking that the dignity of all God's children will be
protected. **R.**

For survivors of Human Trafficking that they will find support for a new life. **R.**

Blessing ritual

Someone carries the bowl of water; another dips the leafy branch in the water
and blesses each one present in the circle of prayer as the words of blessing are
read aloud:

Let us stand in solidarity with the over 27 million women men and children who
suffer each day from modern day slavery (sprinkle water)

Fill us with you holy anger and your sacred passion that those who are trafficked may soon know healing and justice. (sprinkle water)

May the day come soon when all people and our precious earth will be treated not as a commodity but as a radiant image of God's freedom, beauty and truth (sprinkle water)

Glory to you God of life and freedom, bless us , now and forever, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Closing Song: We Will Rise **Poder liberador de Dios** (Restless Heart Bernadette Farrell)

Or any liberation song of your choice

