

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

8th February – Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita



In his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2017, Pope Francis appealed to the world to “... *adopt every possible measure to guarantee the protection and safety of child migrants.*” In light of that appeal, the theme for St. Bakhita’s Day, the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Trafficking in Persons, (8th February, 2017) is;

They are just Children! Not Slaves.

We remember children who have been trafficked and reflect on how we can help them. We remember their families and loved ones who are in pain and suffering.

PRAYER

O God, when we hear of children and adults being deceived and taken to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, and organ ‘harvesting’, our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are ignored through threats, lies, and force. We cry out against the evil practice of this modern slavery, and pray with St. Bakhita for it to end. Give us wisdom and courage to reach out and stand with those whose bodies, hearts and spirits have been so wounded, so that together we may make real your promises to fill these sisters and brothers with a love that is tender and good. Send the exploiters away empty-handed to be converted from this wickedness, and help us all to claim the freedom that is your gift to your children. Amen

The full text of Pope Francis address can be found at “Pope Francis Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2017

<http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2017/01/09/pope-francis-message-for-world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees-2017/>