



January – Human Trafficking Awareness Month Bulletin Announcements for the Four Weeks of January 2014 Diocese of San Jose

January 4 and 5

Human trafficking, modern-day slavery, is defined as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for commercial sex, labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.” In the United States any minor under 18 years of age involved in prostitution is considered trafficked.

(Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000)

What does Catholic Social Teaching say?

“Slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children and disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain...poison human society...and debase the perpetrators.”

Gaudium et Spes, #27

Prayer:

Creator God, make us instruments of your liberation and peace, we pray...**Lord, save your people.**

Action:

The National Human Trafficking Hotline is 1-888-3737-888. Program this number into your phone.

If you think or suspect that someone is a victim of human trafficking contact the National Hotline: 888-3737-888 or text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733).

January 11 and 12

January 11 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Women, men and children can be trafficked. It is not necessary for a human trafficking victim to cross a border.

- Citizens of a country can be trafficked within their own country.
- A person can come into a country legally (work, travel or student visa) and be then be trafficked.
- A person can come into a country with fraudulent documents and then be trafficked.
- A person can be smuggled into a country and then be trafficked.

Smuggling violates a border. Human trafficking violates and exploits a person.

What does Catholic Social Teaching say?

“Action on behalf of justice...appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the gospel...the Church’s mission for redemption of the human trace and its liberation from every oppressive conditions.”

Justice in the World –1971 World Synod of Bishops



**January – Human Trafficking Awareness Month
Bulletin Announcements for the Four Weeks of January 2014
Diocese of San Jose**

Prayer:

Loving God, help us to look beyond impressions to see the true value and dignity of every person, we pray...**Lord, save your people.**

Action:

For more information go to South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking at www.southbayendtrafficking.org.

**If you think or suspect that someone is a victim of human trafficking contact the National Hotline:
888-3737-888 or text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733).**

January 18 and 19

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal activity in the world and is second behind drug trafficking. Human trafficking is estimated to be an annual \$32 billion industry. Who are the traffickers: criminal organizations, street gangs, family members, friends, or employers. The criminal means by which trafficking takes place include not only force, abduction, or deception, but also less explicit tactics such as abuse of a victim's vulnerability.

What does Catholic Social Teaching say?

“The joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.”

(Gaudium et Spes, #1)

Prayer:

Liberating God, empower us to bring quality of life to the enslaved and downtrodden of our world, we pray...**Lord, save your people.**

Action:

Sign up to receive electronically the *Stop Trafficking!* Newsletter written by Sister Jean Schaefer: jeansds2008@yahoo.com

**If you think or suspect that someone is a victim of human trafficking contact the National Hotline:
888-3737-888 or text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733).**

January 25 and 26

Some ways to identify a victim of human trafficking:

- Has inexplicable physical injuries.
- Shows a great deal of fear and/or signs of severe trauma.
- Is unable to speak English but has a companion speak for her/him despite the presence of neutral interpreters.



January – Human Trafficking Awareness Month Bulletin Announcements for the Four Weeks of January 2014 Diocese of San Jose

- Is unable to go out or move about freely or alone.
- Has moved housing locations frequently.
- Lives where they work.

What does Catholic Social Teaching say?

“We are witnessing...a new humanism, one in which humans are defined first of all by their responsibility toward their brothers and sisters...”

(Gaudium et Spes, #55)

Prayer:

Saving God, open our ears to the cries of the poor, entrapped and trafficked as human slaves, we pray...**Lord, save your people.**

Action:

Check out the Polaris Project, the National Resource Center on Human Trafficking:

www.polarisproject.org.

**If you think or suspect that someone is a victim of human trafficking contact the National Hotline:
888-3737-888 or text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733).**

Adapted from:

Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery

A Parish Resource Packet to bring about God’s intent for our world through awareness raising and action.

© Designed and offered by the Sisters of the Divine Savior (Salvatorian Sisters – stoptraffick@aol.com)