

Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking

MEDIA ADVISORY: February 5, 2020
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February 8th Mass & Reception to Remember Survivors & Victims of Human Trafficking With Bishop Dorsonville as Principal Celebrant and Homilist

We remember those enchained in modern-day slavery and we seek inspiration to act.

The Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking invites all to observe the World Day of Prayer, Reflection & Action Against Human Trafficking and the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita with a special intercultural Mass celebrated by Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville on Saturday, February 8 at 4:30 pm at St. Camillus Catholic Church (1600 St. Camillus Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20903).

Intercultural Mass: World Day of Prayer, Reflection & Action Against Human Trafficking and the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita

Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 4:30 pm with reception to follow

St. Camillus Church

1600 St. Camillus Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20903

Regular RSVPs may be sent to MRSTraff@usccb.org.

With Pope Francis's encouragement, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the International Union of Superiors General designated February 8 as an annual day of prayer, reflection, and awareness against human trafficking. On this day, the faithful across the world are encouraged to support, remember, pray for, and be in solidarity with those affected by human trafficking. February 8 also coincides with the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita.

St. Bakhita (born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869) was kidnapped and enslaved as a child and trafficked to Italy. She won her freedom with the help of the Canossian Sisters in Venice. Through her faith, St. Bakhita realized the promise of liberty inherent in the human spirit. She lived out the rest of her life as a Canossian Sister, sharing her empowering testimony of human freedom and dignity.

In October 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Josephine Bakhita, noting that in this saint, "we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation."

The local members of CCOAHT are:
Franciscan Action Network
International Catholic Migration Commission

Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Maryland Catholic Conference
Mid Atlantic Coalition Against Modern Slavery
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (US Province)
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
St. Camillus Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation Committee
USCCB/Migration and Refugee Services
USCCB Cultural Diversity in the Church: Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, & Travelers

[The Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking](#) (CCOAHT) consists of national and international Catholic agencies working to eliminate the scourge of human trafficking. CCOAHT's more than 30 member organizations have their own networks of concerned citizens committed to eradicating human trafficking.