

CATHOLICS
CONFRONT
GLOBAL
POVERTY

WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2015

SLAVES NO MORE, BUT BROTHERS AND SISTERS



Do you recognize your brothers and sisters around the world as made in the image and likeness of God, and therefore having "equal dignity"?

For the 2015 World Day of Peace, Pope Francis challenges all of us to recognize every other person as a brother or sister with God-given dignity. Such recognition, he says, will lead to peace.

When we recognize the dignity of others, we will feel compelled to work for an end to all that exploits and enslaves them, such as human trafficking, trade in migrants and prostitutes, exploitation, slave labor, and the enslavement of women and children. These things, Pope Francis says, are a fatal running sore on the flesh of Christ.

To address these assaults on the dignity of our exploited and enslaved brothers and sisters, we must assist victims and address the problems and issues that create conditions ripe for exploitation.

Catholics in the United States can join the U.S. Catholic bishops and Catholic Relief Services as they work to help victims of exploitation and slavery and address root causes, such as poverty and lack of opportunity, conflict, corruption, demand in developed nations for services of the sex trade and forced labor, poor regulation of industries most susceptible to trafficking (such as the agricultural, domestic, hospitality, and service industries), and lack of anti-human trafficking laws and enforcement of such laws where they do exist.

You can join us in answering Pope Francis' call to build a civilization based on the equal dignity of every person. Read on to find out how!

Pope Francis' message is the most recent in a long history of messages for the World Day of Peace beginning with Pope Paul VI in 1968.

Visit the USCCB website for a link to the 2015 World Day of Peace message and supplemental resources: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm

YOU CAN BE A PEACEMAKER.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. **Pray for the liberation and restoration of victims and survivors of modern day slavery.** Use the prayer below in your daily prayer, at the family dinner table, or in a group setting. Ask yourself: *How does the Prince of Peace call me to work to defend the dignity of all my brothers and sisters?*
2. **Take part in the SHEPHERD program** of the U.S. Catholic bishops and work to protect, help, empower, and restore the dignity of trafficking survivors. Request a toolkit from mrshepherd@usccb.org or visit www.usccb.org/shepherd to learn more.
3. **Take action.** Advocate for policies that address the causes of modern day slavery, protect survivors of human trafficking, and seek justice for those that have been victimized. For current action alerts, visit ConfrontGlobalPoverty.org and the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services [website](#).
4. **Educate others.** On Jan. 1 (World Day of Peace), use the hashtag #SlavesNoMore to spread the word.
5. **Observe the National Day of Prayer** for Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking on Feb. 8, the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita. In memory of St. Josephine, who spent several years trapped in slavery, offer a Mass intention or lead a prayer service or vigil in your parish.

PRAYER TO END TRAFFICKING

Loving Father,

We seek your divine protection for all who are exploited and enslaved. For those forced into labor, trafficked into sexual slavery, and denied freedom.

We beseech you to release them from their chains.

Grant them protection, safety, and empowerment.

Restore their dignity and provide to them a new beginning.

Show us how we might end exploitation by addressing its causes.

Help us reach out in support of victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Make us instruments of your spirit for their liberation.

For this we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

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