On Day for Life, June 17, Caritas Anti-Trafficking, working with the Santa Marta Group and the Medaille Trust will launch a major initiative in the Diocese to raise awareness on human trafficking and modern day slavery. Learn more about the Santa Marta Group and the Medaille Trust.

Fifth Santa Marta Group Meeting in the Vatican, February 2018

Law enforcement officers, Bishops, religious sisters and international organisations from across the world gathered to update and share good practice in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery. With input from every continent, each region discussed their successes and the challenges they face. Contributions from international agencies emphasised the role of the private sector and the importance of transparency in supply chains. A particularly difficult issue is tracking slavery within seafaring.

Cardinal Nichols, President of the Santa Marta Group, in his address to Pope Francis, drew attention to the need to always remember the victim at the centre of this evil crime; the enslaved person who demands our action in combating trafficking. Cardinal Nichols said: “Our Santa Marta Group meeting has been a hard look at one of the dark faces of globalisation: the scourge of human trafficking and modern slavery. In contrast, Holy Father, we thank you for the many ways in which you make visible the truly human face of our world. Constantly in your actions and words, you remind us that the well-being of the human person must always be at the centre of every endeavour.” For more information on the Santa Marta Group go to www.santamartagroup.com

A new Chief Executive is appointed to the Medaille Trust

With over 20 years in the charity sector, Garry Smith has extensive experience and will focus on driving forward the charity’s aims of supporting victims and survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Since its formation in 2016 the Medaille Trust has become one of the largest providers of specialist safe house beds for victims of modern slavery in the world and has a fine reputation of rolling up its sleeves and working very effectively with the people affected.

Gary says: “I am passionate in my belief that more must be done to support the victims of this heinous crime and that every person affected should receive the highest quality care, enabling them to live an independent life, free from the invisible chains of modern slavery.”

The Medaille trust has 9 safe houses and 109 bed spaces. It has two safe houses in the Diocese of Salford. The short term financial support coming from government is only a start and Médaille funds the more lengthy periods of recovery from donations by religious and private supporters.

As part of the build up to June 17 we are providing all churches in the Diocese with our Easter edition newsletter for distribution to parishioners. We are asking priests to place the newsletters in their church porch and perhaps ask a parishioner to offer them to people as they leave church. For people who prefer to access or read on line the newsletter can be downloaded from our website http://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/