Feast of St Bakhita, February 8: Pray for the victims of human trafficking

Caritas Anti-Trafficking, working with the Santa Marta Group and the Medaille Trust to raise awareness on human trafficking

Caritas Anti-Trafficking is a response to Pope Francis’ call for Catholics and law enforcement officers around the world to join together in the fight against human trafficking and modern day slavery. Contact ModernSlavery@caritassalford.org.uk

The Santa Marta Group first met in Rome during April 2014 when police chiefs and Catholic bishops came together, in the presence of Pope Francis, to sign an historic declaration, committing themselves to a partnership to eliminate human trafficking.

We pray:

for the victims of human trafficking and all those in any kind of slavery
for those rescued from slavery that they may heal from years of abuse
for retail managers that they may rid their supply chains of enforced labour
for the men and women who care for and restore those who have been rescued from slavery.
that the church will rise up and lead the fight against modern slavery
that we may become aware of modern day slavery and learn the signs that help the Police identify potential victims

Victims may:
show signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt, or appear withdrawn
avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fearful of law enforcers
have few possessions, often wear the same clothes
live in dirty cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and could be living & working at the same address
seem under the control and influence of others or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work
have little opportunity to move free and may have no identification documents or travel documents retained
be dropped off and collected for work on a regular basis either early or late at night

The Medaille Trust has been providing safe housing and practical support to victims of human trafficking for over 11 years. With a fine reputation for working with people directly affected by this heinous crime it is one of the largest providers of specialist accommodation in the world, currently offering 109 bed spaces to men, women and children across the country.