

Important News from



Salvatorian Advocacy for Victims of Exploitation

September 29, 2006- October 1, 2006 is the First Annual International Weekend of Prayer and Fasting for Victims of Human Trafficking.



Our Salvatorian committee, S.A.V.E. (Salvatorian Advocacy for Victims of Exploitation) continues to work collaboratively on our priority justice issue of human trafficking and slavery. We offer the following and ask you to please take an **active role** to make the First Annual International Weekend of Prayer and Fasting for Victims of Human Trafficking a powerful one.

Please, share the following with as many people as you can!

For Your Parish's Sunday Bulletin



Who: You

What: Get one of these printed in your parish bulletin by contacting your parish office. The "due date" is often a week or more before the date of publication.

When: Immediately contact your parish. Give them both versions. Ask them to put it in for both the weekend of September 24 and the weekend of October 1.

SHORTER VERSION (91 words):

Join Christians around the world for the **First Annual International Weekend of Prayer and Fasting for the Victims of Human Trafficking on September 29-October 1, 2006**. Join with thousands of others to raise up the 12.4 million children, women and men in our world who are victims of human slavery today. Pray and fast one day in the workplace (Friday, September 29) and one Sunday (Sunday, Oct. 1) on behalf of people who are trafficked, enslaved and exploited. For more information on



human slavery and trafficking, including slaves in the United States, today, please visit <http://www.sdssisters.org/slavery>.

LONGER VERSION (150 words):

Human Trafficking is Modern Day Slavery. It occurs today, in the USA and in almost every other country in our world. Millions of people around the world suffer in situations of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation from which they cannot free themselves. Trafficking in persons is one of the greatest human rights challenges of our time.

Over 700,000 people are trafficked globally each year. Nearly 12.4 million people, including children as young as age two, are enslaved today.

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Included in This

Publication:

- ❑ Items for your parish's bulletin for the weekend of September 24 and October 1.
- ❑ Petitions for use in your parish's Prayer of the Faithful for the Masses of October 1, 2006.
- ❑ Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer for use in your local community on or near the weekend.
- ❑ A personal "table tent" for use at your place of ministry or work on Friday, September 29



This logo is widely used by the Salvatorians in their work on the issue of human trafficking and slavery.

REMEMBER: For free, easy-to-use information on human trafficking and slavery, we maintain an international website, used by thousands! Come and see! www.sdssisters.org/slavery

For Your Parish's Prayer of the Faithful

Ask your pastor or liturgical minister to insert one or more of the following into your faith community's prayer of the faithful for Sunday, October 1.

- ❑ For children, women and vulnerable men who are trapped in slavery, involuntary servitude, and human trafficking, let us pray to the Lord...
- ❑ For Christians around the world who come together this weekend to pray and fast for victims of slavery and human trafficking, that we may, through our prayers and actions, bring freedom and restoration to victims, let us pray to the Lord...
- ❑ For all of us who have power to create social, economic, and political systems of justice instead of oppression, that we may have courage and respond to God's call to us, let us pray to the Lord...
- ❑ For the perpetrators of human slavery and trafficking, and for all who profit from the forced labor or exploitation of others, that they may be transformed by the power of God's love, let us pray to the Lord...
- ❑ For each of us who wear clothing made by slave labor, eat foods harvested by laborers who work against their will, or who are otherwise connected to victims of slavery and trafficking, that in that connection, we find ways to create justice, let us pray to the Lord...

Morning or Evening Prayer

Side 1: O God, come to our assistance.

Side 2: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Leader: We pray these lines so often when we come together for morning or evening prayer. When we do so, we name and acknowledge our relationship to our Loving, Saving God, a relationship in which we rely totally upon God for our very existence.

Side 1: Today, in our world, more than 12 million children, women and men are slaves. They are held against their will, laboring in fields, factories, restaurants, homes, and brothels. They cry out - O God, come to our assistance.

Side 2: In the Middle East, boys as young as age 2 are stolen from their families and forced to labor- with little food, little shelter, and no medical care- as "camel jockeys," riding camels in dangerous races so that the rich can bet on the outcome. When they grow too big, they are discarded. They cry out- O Lord, make haste to help us.

Side 1: Young healthy men, women, teens and children are recruited from poor villages across South and Central America, with promises of good jobs, education, and medical care. Instead, they become slaves in our fields, picking the fruits and vegetables on our tables. They become slaves in our factories and restaurants. They are sold for their healthy organs, which bring millions on the black market. They weep at their powerlessness. They cry out- O God, come to our assistance.

Side 2: Boys and girls, as young as three or four, are bought and sold to brothels around the world. These children's bodies are purchased and they are raped ten, fifteen, twenty times a night by business men from Europe and the United States who travel in search of "child sex tourism." Millions of dollars change hands. The children are discarded when they can no longer make money for their owners. They cry out- O Lord, make haste to help us.

Side 1: In upscale suburban neighborhoods as close as Brookfield, Wisconsin... in urban and rural communities in Minnesota, California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, Alabama, Arizona... Women and girls are bought and sold into forced labor as domestic servants. They cannot choose where to live or work. They cannot leave the home in which they are held. For little or no pay, they are held against their will. Many are sexually and physically abused. They cry out- O God, come to our assistance.

Side 2: In basements, backrooms and brothels... behind the façade of seemingly legitimate businesses... women, girls, and young boys face lives of brutal abuse and psychological despair as their pimps sell them, again and again. Against their will, they are held by barred windows, locked doors, and psychological chains. They, too, cry out- O Lord, make haste to help us.

Pause: Quiet reflection

Continue on next page...



Morning or Evening Prayer- Continued



READING 1: Isaiah 61:1-3

*The Spirit of the LORD is on me,
Because the LORD has anointed me to preach
good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim freedom for the captives
And release from darkness for the prisoners,
To proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
And the day of vengeance of our God,*

*To comfort all who mourn,
And provide for those who grieve in Zion.
To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead
of ashes. The oil of gladness instead of
mourning. A garment of praise instead of a
spirit of despair.*

Pause: Quiet reflection

READING 2: James 2:14-18

*What good is it, my brothers and sisters,
if someone says he has faith but does not have
works? Can that faith save him or her?
If a brother or sister has nothing to wear
and has no food for the day, and one of you
says, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,"
but you do not give them the necessities of the
body, what good is it?*

*So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, it
is dead.*

*Indeed someone might say,
"You have faith and I have works."*

*Demonstrate your faith to me without works,
and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my
works.*

Leader: Knowing that our Savior hears us as we pray, let us offer up our petitions. (Response is: Lord, hear our prayer.)

- ❑ Let us answer your call to serve our neighbor with every fiber of our being. Give us energy. Make our love boundless. Let us spend our lives on those you love.
- ❑ For the rescue and restoration of the children, women, and men who are victims of human trafficking, and for the

active involvement of people like us in witnessing to the salvation of our loving God.

- ❑ For the transformation and conversion of the men and women who are perpetrators of slavery and trafficking- for pimps, slave owners, owners of brothels, for those who transport and recruit slaves, and those who use the labor of those who are slaves.
- ❑ For mothers and fathers who have lost children to slavery, child sex tourism, and prostitution.
- ❑ For those who must live in places in our world where the realities of poverty, war, civil strife, religious or cultural intolerance, and the power of capitalism create extreme vulnerability for children, women and men.
- ❑ For world leaders, governments, non-governmental organizations, leaders of faith communities, and common people like us who have the ability to work together in response to the reality of slavery in the 21st century... that we may have wisdom, courage, and the will to create the needed changes in our world.
- ❑ For our Church and its leaders, who can offer our suffering world both leadership and a model for justice.
- ❑ For each of us, that we may be empowered to do whatever we can to bring to reality the abolition of slavery in our time.

Leader:

Grant us, Saving God, the faith to live out your promise of salvation- a salvation you offer to all through your Son, Jesus. You call us to be part of your freedom- give us the courage to take action, even when issues are complex. And, as we join with millions around our world on this first annual International Weekend of Prayer and Fasting for Victims of Human Trafficking, help us to become part of this movement toward freedom. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen



Day of Prayer and Fasting... in Your Workplace

The **First Annual International Day of Prayer and Fasting for Victims of Human Trafficking** is intentionally a multi-day event. **September 29, 2006** is a Friday, a day when many of us are actively ministering at work, at school, or elsewhere. Here's an easy opportunity to offer up your labors in a special way for those who labor against their will in situations of slavery, exploitation, and human trafficking. Use a scissors to cut out the "table tent" below. Fold it, tape or staple it into a "tent" shape, and bring it with you to work. Place it on your desk or workspace. Place it on your lunch table. Clip it to your calendar, door, bulletin board, or wall. Use it to remind yourself of your commitment to prayer and fasting for victims of human trafficking and slavery, and to gently call others to awareness. The very fact that most people have no idea that slavery continues to exist, and exists right here, in our own society, allows victims to remain invisible. You can be part of a new "Underground Railroad," offering slaves freedom.



Today, 12.4 million children, women and vulnerable men are being held against their will and forced to labor in factories, fields, mines, homes, and brothels. This year, more than 800,000 humans will be sold as if they were commodities so as to ensure profit for their owners. Humans are being trafficked and forced to work as slaves in nearly every country in the world, including in the United States. We're taking action. Won't you join us? S.A.V.E. : <http://www.sdssisters.org/slavery>



[Today · NOW - TODAY]



I shall **pray** and **fast** in **solidarity** **with** victims of human trafficking and slavery... held here and around the world.

International Weekend of Prayer and Fasting for Victims of Human Trafficking
www.sdssisters.org/slavery



DIRECTIONS FOR TABLE TENT:

1. Cut on dashed lines.
2. Fold on dotted lines.
3. Tape or staple the overlapping bottom parts to allow it to stand in a triangular shape.