



Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia

Standing with the dear neighbor ...

I am **Marina** from the Dominican Republic. I am a single mother with three children. I made \$25.00 a week by taking in washing and cleaning homes. One night a Dominican man told me that I could make \$200.00 working as a maid in Spain. How could I refuse such an opportunity? When I arrived in Madrid, I was met by two Swiss men who took my immigration papers and forced me to be a sex slave. I was trapped for one year before I was able to escape.

Modern-day Slavery ~ 43% of trafficked people are used for forced commercial sexual exploitation; nearly half are children
2% are men and boys; 98% are women and girls.



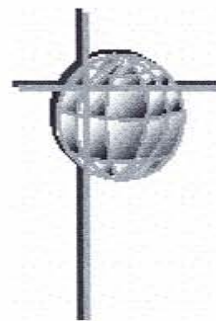
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Loving God and neighbor without distinction...

My name is **Angela**. I am 20 years old and one of ten children of a poor family in Latin America. When I learned of a chance to pursue my education while working in the home of a North American family, I convinced my parents that this would help our economic situation. I was excited to begin work and my studies.

What I found in my new home was anything but what was promised. For three years, I slept on a mattress in the family's kitchen. I was not allowed out of the house. I worked seven days a week. I cooked, cleaned, cared for two infants and an elderly parent. Threats, verbal abuse, and intimidation were constant. I was paid 30 cents an hour.

Modern-day Slavery ~ Two million people are trafficked worldwide each year. Nearly 20,000 are brought to the U.S.



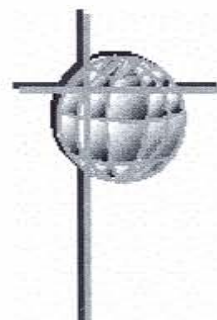
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See what miseries exist and address them ...

I am **Maria** from Mexico. When I was 18 I was approached by a woman who told me about restaurant jobs in the United States. This seemed like a great opportunity for me to earn more money for my family.

I accepted the job and soon was brought by a coyote (a person who smuggles people) to Texas and then transported to Florida. When I arrived in Florida I was told that I would be working at a brothel as a prostitute. He said that I owed him a smuggling debt of \$2,200 and the sooner I paid it off the sooner I could leave. There were up to four girls kept at each brothel. We were constantly guarded and abused. If anyone refused to be with a customer, we were beaten.

Modern-day Slavery ~ As many as 500,000 women are trafficked from Latin America to the US and Europe each year.



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We tend to the spiritual and temporal needs of our dear neighbor.

My name is **Rajila**. When I was 30 years old I left my home in India to work in Saudi Arabia based on promises of a good salary and free housing from a company that supplies laborers for hospitals. What seemed like a dream turned out to be a nightmare. I was forced to work 12-hour shifts, six days a week. I was never paid. The 'free' housing was like a jail. We were locked in our rooms. I was not allowed to practice my faith. I escaped after three and a half years of uninterrupted work.

Modern-day Slavery ~ Victims are often kept isolated and their activities restricted to prevent them from seeking help. They are typically watched, escorted or guarded by traffickers



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Reaching out to our broken world...

I am **Katya** from the Czech Republic. When my husband left me, I had to provide for myself and my 2 year-old daughter. A 'friend' told me that I could make good money as a waitress in the Netherlands. A Czech trafficker drove me along with four other young women to Amsterdam where, joined by a Dutch trafficker, I was taken to a brothel. After saying "I will not do this," I was told, "Yes, you will if you want your daughter back in the Czech Republic to live." After years of threats and forced prostitution, I was rescued by a cab driver.

Modern-day Slavery ~ Approximately 900,000 victims annually are trafficked across international borders worldwide. Victims comply and don't seek help because of fear.



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Challenging injustices and fostering right relationships..

I am **Vi** from Vietnam. I was 28 years old when my story began. In 1999 I signed on with a company to work in the United States. We were taken to American Samoa and not to the US. As soon as we landed our passports were confiscated. Working and living conditions were very suffocating. We lived 36 people in one room. Seven days a week we worked long hours. We were given very little to eat. There was no communication with anyone outside of the work compound. If we complained we were beaten or tortured as examples to others. The American Samoan guards terrorized us.

Modern-day Slavery ~ A quarter of a million people are trafficked each year in South East Asia.



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How great is the love to which we are called!

I am **Sergey** from Russia. In 2001 I saw an ad in a local newspaper for construction workers in Spain. I applied to the agency who booked my plane ticket to Madrid on the condition that I would pay back the money when I started work. On arrival in Spain, my passport was confiscated. I was then taken to Portugal and forced to work on a construction site without pay for several months. One day I managed to escape the work site. When I tried to leave Portugal I was arrested because I did not have a passport. Soon I was deported to Russia. I have suffered psychological problems since my return. My traffickers remain unpunished.

Modern-day Slavery ~ 9.8 million people are exploited by private agents and 2.4 million of these are in forced labor.



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Be constant; never give up on doing good.

I am **Miguel** and I helped support my family by working in the fields in Mexico. A man from the United States offered me a job. He told me that since I already had experience, I would be a supervisor. I was excited about the possibility of this new job. A coyote (a person who smuggles people) took me to Texas where I was put in a crowded truck with many other Mexicans. There was no ventilation. We were frightened and we didn't know where we were going. We were taken to Florida and forced to work in the fields. We were told that we were being charged for our travel and housing. Every day the debt grew. Every day we were threatened and sometimes beaten if we argued with our captors.

Modern-day Slavery ~ 12.3 million people are victims of forced labor world-wide.

For your ...

Contemplation . . .

Action . . .

Surf these websites:

Captive Daughters
www.captivedaughters.org

Civil Rights Division:
www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/wetf/trafficbrochure.html

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>

*"Trade" cards with others.
Make time to pray and discuss together.*

Conversation . . .

Education . . .

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Surf these websites:

The Coalition against Trafficking in Women
www.catwinternational.org

U.S. Department of State:
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
www.state.gov/g/tip/

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>

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Surf these websites:

Stop-Traffic.org
www.stop-traffic.org

Freedom Network to Empower Trafficked
and Enslaved Persons
www.freedomnetworkusa.org/

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>

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Surf these websites:

Anti-Slavery International
www.antislavery.org

Stop Trafficking Newsletter
<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptraffic/index.html>

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>

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Surf these websites:

Interpol: Taskforce in response to online child abuse
www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com

Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence
Against Women: Information on Trafficking in Persons
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/trafficking_info.htm

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>

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Surf these websites:

Office of Women in Development:
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/activities/trafficking_persons.html

U.S. Department of Justice:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/trafficking.htm>

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>

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Surf these websites:

Children and Human Trafficking
www.interpol.int/Public/THB/default.asp

U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime:
www.undcp.org/odccp/trafficking_human_beings

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>

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Surf these websites:

U.S. Department Health and Human Services
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking

Free the Slaves
www.freetheslaves.net

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:
<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>

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