

Raising Awareness of Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking

“Trafficking in persons – in which men, women and children from all over the globe are transported to other countries for the purposes of forced prostitution or labor – inherently rejects the dignity of the human person.” (US/Mexico Bishops Pastoral Letter, 2002)

From their foundation in 17th Century France, the Sisters of Saint Joseph have dedicated themselves to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, particularly those which most benefit the dear neighbor. Today, the growing awareness of modern day slavery, known as human trafficking, turns the eyes and hearts of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Associates to look for ways to address and respond to this present-day slavery. We join with Pope Benedict XVI and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in this effort to educate others about the issue of human trafficking. It may surprise you to learn that over 1,000,000 children are sold into slave labor each year. The chocolate we eat, the coffee we drink, and the clothes we wear could have been manufactured by some of these children. See today’s bulletin insert entitled *Child Slavery Today*.

Websites: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>
ECPAT <http://www.ecpat.net/eng/index.asp>