

Sisters of Saint Joseph and Associates
Raising Awareness of Human Trafficking

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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 and exploits conditions of global poverty.” (*Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*, A Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, January 22, 2003)

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.

UNICEF reports that up to 1.2 million children are trafficked each year. Human trafficking is now the third largest illegal industry on the planet after drugs and arms smuggling. These victims may harvest our food or do our gardening, or earn our disapproval as prostitutes, but we do not realize that some of them are, in fact, slaves. See today’s bulletin insert, *How to Identify a Trafficked Person*.

Websites: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/traffickingweb.shtml>
Stop Trafficking Newsletter <http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptrafficking/index.html>