

October - Human Trafficking Sanctity & Dignity of Life

What does this look like?



This month's focus is on Respect for Life and human trafficking. You may not see the problem, but it's there. The US State Department estimates there are 24.9 million human trafficking victims worldwide. This is not something that occurs only in dark alleys in the far corners of the Earth, though. It's happening around the world every day. [Human trafficking is considered modern-day slavery](#), and there are more slaves today than at any time in history.

Pray Prayer for the End of Human Trafficking **Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J.** God of freedom, beauty and truth we believe that your deepest desire, your most powerful energy, is that all creation might know abundant life. We raise our voices in anguished prayer for our sisters and brothers, women and girls, men and boys, who are modern day slaves; they are your beloved daughters and sons, exploited sexually or forced to work because of human violence and greed. Fill us with your holy anger and your sacred passion that those who are trafficked might know healing and justice; that traffickers will come to repentance and conversion; that all of us might live in such a way that others are not made to pay the price for our comfort and convenience. Hasten the coming of the day when all people and our precious Earth itself will be treated, not as a commodity, but as radiant images of your freedom, beauty and truth. Amen.

Reflect: The Church's teaching on the mystical body of Christ, that "if one member suffers than all suffer, together. If one member is honored, all rejoice together" 1Corinthians 12:26. This speaks to the sanctity and dignity of all human life. All Catholics are called to take action to whatever is causing this wound and harm to the body of Christ, one of which is human trafficking. ***What is God asking you to do to promote a culture of life in your community?***

Act: This month pray, research, and reflect about what you and your family can do to help end human trafficking

- Be Educated and informed – Go to [northerncoloradoforlife.com/Sanctity and Dignity of life](http://northerncoloradoforlife.com/Sanctity%20and%20Dignity%20of%20life) page to see a podcast on sex trafficking and how social media is used to entice children into sex trafficking and how COVID increased the prevalence.
- October is the month of the Rosary – Please pray for the end of human trafficking
- Attend Sex Education in Public Schools: Sexualization and Indoctrination event offered by the Denver Respect Life office Oct 22 or Oct 23rd respectlifedenver.org

You can make a difference!

For more information on events and resources visit northerncoloradoforlife.com

Summary: Facts about human trafficking

- **Definition of human trafficking:**
 - The act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud or coercion.
 - You can be a victim of human trafficking in your hometown.
 - The goal is exploitation and enslavement of the victim.
- **Types of human trafficking:**
 - Sexual exploitation and forced labor are the most commonly identified forms of human trafficking.
 - More than half of the victims are female.
 - Many other forms of exploitation are often thought to be under-reported. These include domestic servitude and forced marriage; organ removal; and the exploitation of children in begging, the sex trade and warfare (child soldiers and debt bondage).
- **Causes of human trafficking: It's complicated and interlinked**
 - Include economic, social and political factors.
 - Poverty alone does not necessarily create vulnerability to trafficking, but when combined with other factors, these can lead to a higher risk for being trafficked.
 - Some of those other factors include: corruption, civil unrest, a weak government, lack of access to education or jobs, family disruption or dysfunction, lack of human rights, or economic disruptions.
 - Porn users demand a constant stream of new, increasingly violent and fetishized content. In order to keep up with this demand, more women and children become prostituted and trafficked." National Center on Sexual Exploitation. (2015) *Pornography + Sex Trafficking: The Facts*. [Accessed 29th December 2015] <http://stoptraffickingdemand.com/facts/>?
 - The internet was by far the most dominant business model sex traffickers used to solicit buyers of commercial sex (used in 87.7% of sex trafficking cases active in 2018) and was also the most common method for luring victims (used in 42.5% of sex trafficking cases active in 2018). ([2018 Federal Human Trafficking Report](#))
- **It's a lucrative industry:**
 - Along with illegal arms and drug trafficking, human trafficking is one of the largest international crime industries in the world.
 - A report from the [International Labor Organization \(ILO\)](#) says forced labor generates \$150 billion in illegal profits per year.
 - Two-thirds of that money came from commercial sexual exploitation, while the rest is from forced economic exploitation, including domestic work, agriculture, child labor and related activities.
- **Believe it. Human trafficking is everywhere:**
 - Every continent in the world has been involved in human trafficking.
 - In the United States, it is most prevalent in Texas, Florida, New York and California. Human trafficking is both a domestic and global crime, with victims trafficked within their own country, to neighboring countries and between continents.
 - Victims of trafficking can be of any age and any gender. Women and children are often used for sexual exploitation, while men are more likely to be used for forced labor.
 - Globally, about one in five victims of human trafficking are children. Children are also exploited for the purposes of forced begging, child pornography or child labor. Their smaller hands may also be used in tasks like sewing or untangling fishing wire.
- **We need to do more.....**
 - Migrants are vulnerable to human trafficking.
 - Trafficking in people in conflict situations is not a mere possibility but something that happens on a regular basis," said Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, the United Nation's special rapporteur on human trafficking, in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

To read more go to <https://www.crs.org/stories/stop-human-trafficking>

For more statistics go to <https://www.enough.org/stats-sex-trafficking>