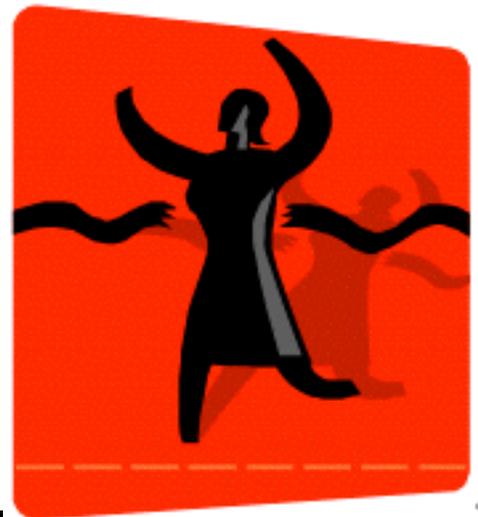


Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery

**A Parish Resource Packet
to bring about God's intent
for our world through
awareness raising and action.**

*Breaking
the Snares*

Psalm 124:7



Salvatorian Advocacy for Victims of Exploitation



Dear Pastor,

Five minutes of your time is needed to read this letter and pass on the information to staff persons – and it will make a difference in the lives of some of the poorest of the poor!

Slavery was supposed to have been abolished when the 13th amendment passed 140 years ago. In reality, modern day slavery is not only alive and well, but growing in unprecedented dimensions with the help of modern communication and Internet access. There are 27,000,000 persons enslaved in our world right now – a staggering number! Today the term ‘human trafficking’ is used to describe this modern day form of slavery because of the mobility involved by both victims and traffickers.

Through recent media coverage, the public is beginning to be aware of human trafficking. Jesus proclaimed his mission of ‘bringing liberty to captives.’ Our involvement is needed in order to turn the tide of this modern day tragedy that denies basic human rights to so many of our brothers and sisters, today’s ‘captives.’

No doubt, you have many commitments and a full church calendar for the upcoming year. Perhaps you think you cannot become involved in ‘one more thing.’ This packet of information intends to assist you in two ways:

- It provides information and resources about human trafficking that could be integrated in what is already in place in your church community – avoiding adding extras to an already full church calendar.
- It offers handout materials you could pass on to your church personnel who would raise awareness in your church community around human trafficking issues.

At a meeting in Bangkok, Thailand (April 28, 2005), the Vatican put human trafficking at the top of the list of concerns needing to be addressed by the Church and the world. For some trafficked persons, who come from countries where police and government officials are complicit with traffickers, the church pastor is the one person they may trust. It is a place where some victims have sought refuge. Therefore, it is important to know what to look for in identifying a potential victim and how to proceed with suspicious signs.

Thank you for taking the time to review these materials and sharing the pages with the designated church personnel. It is one way we can continue the mission Jesus proclaimed of ‘bringing liberty to captives.’

In the Savior,

Sheila Novak SDS

*Breaking
the Snare* Psalm 124:7



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Our Christian Grounding

Our call:

The Spirit . . . is upon me . . .
to announce good news to the poor . . .
release to captives. . .to let the oppressed go free. (LK. 4:18)

Our prayer:

*I contemplate . . . the tears of the oppressed, with no one
to protect them! ; the power their oppressors wield.
No one to protect them. (Eccl. 4:1)*

Our response:

THERE IS HOPE FOR YOUR FUTURE. (JER. 31:17)



**Victims of human trafficking
are denied their God-given identity.
Addressing human trafficking is a matter of justice.**

Pastor's Page

- Review pg. 12 (a background information sheet on human trafficking included in this packet). There is a wealth of additional information on the Internet. Google 'human trafficking' or visit: www.sdssisters.org/slavery.
- Designate one or two Sundays this year to preach on slavery/human trafficking. See suggested texts for liturgical preaching that have potential references to bondage, freedom and salvation in liturgical cycles A, B and C — pgs. 15 - 18. See a sample homily on pg. 19.
- Choose a day or weekend to highlight this issue. Possible days that provide a natural link are listed on pg. 28. A bulletin enclosure, in both English and Spanish, is included for raising the awareness of your church community (pg. 30).
- Keep the page on identifying victims of human trafficking as a reference (pg.13-14). Note the 24/7 referral hotline:
1-888-3737-888.
- If you wish additional resources, contact S. Sheila Novak SDS or S. Jean Schafer SDS at: stoptraffick@aol.com

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Pastoral Staff Information

Human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery, is just becoming visible to the public. Just as coverage of Hurricane Katrina exposed the 25% impoverished population living in New Orleans, the media is beginning to shed light on the worldwide enslavement of 27,000,000 of our brothers and sisters. There are many resources for learning about this reality and ways of incorporating education and action for your church membership into what you are already doing. Here are some suggestions:

- Do some preliminary learning about human trafficking as a basis for your efforts. See enclosed information sheet (pg. 12). Google 'human trafficking' or visit: www.sdssisters.org/slavery.
- Arrange to have an hour of in-service for the staff on human trafficking. There are persons knowledgeable about this issue, who could assist you, and excellent videos available.
- February 27th is National Anti-Slavery Day. Plan to disseminate information or have handouts for church members. Have a mini-information session after worship services or schedule an evening to explore the issue.
- Third World poverty is a major root cause of human trafficking. Empowering impoverished people with a living wage is an effective way to stem trafficking. Our purchase of Fair Trade products ensures a living wage for those doing the manual labor. Investigate Fair Trade by visiting www.globalexchange.org or www.fairtradefederation.com. Discuss using Fair Trade products for your church activities. Post information about Fair Trade and display the Fair Trade logo to witness to church members and encourage them to make their own choices for Fair Trade. Have persons identify businesses that carry Fair Trade products in your area and post that information to encourage patronage. See information sheets on Sweat Shops as additional ways to take action for just wages (pgs. 23-25).
- If your church has an outreach to the poor during Advent or Lent, consider giving money to a micro-lending organization, which provides small loans to the poor. Such loans enable them to have a means of livelihood and thus discourages human trafficking. Examples are: KIVA (www.kiva.org), Heifer International (www.heifer.org) or the Grameen Bank, highlighted in a recent series on PBS called 'The New Heroes' (www.GrameenFoundation.org), or www.womenforwomen.org.
- Have a retreat day or reflection evening for members of your church who are law enforcement officers, medical personnel and/or social workers. Inform them about human trafficking and the ways to identify victims. They are in positions to potentially encounter victims, so such information is critical. A packet of free information may be obtained from the U.S. Government's 'Rescue and Restore Campaign' at www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.

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Worship Coordinator

- Incorporate the plight of trafficked victims into the prayers of intercession at worship services. Possible prayers are on pg. 20.
- Ask the pastor and other preachers to link the appropriate Scripture readings with the issue of human trafficking in their sermons/homilies once or twice a year. A resource on possible Scripture passages for Cycles A, B and C is provided for your pastor — pgs. 15 - 18.
- In planning for the season of Advent or Lent, make human trafficking a modern day theme, highlighting our continued need for salvation and liberation.

Minister for Seniors/Homebound

- Form a 'media watch' group that clips newspaper articles about Human Trafficking to post on a church awareness-raising bulletin board.
- Have a correspondence group write notes to TV stations and newspapers that cover human trafficking stories. Thank them for their coverage and encourage further exploration of the issue.
- Invite seniors or homebound members to adopt a human trafficking website. Have them monitor developments and write a periodic update about what is happening. Post these summaries in the church bulletin or on the Human Trafficking Awareness bulletin board.
- Conduct letter writing campaigns to support Human Trafficking legislation or to urge corporations to use Fair Trade products. Have participants alert other church members to also write to legislators at critical moments of pending legislation. See resource for letter writing to legislators on pg. 21.

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Education – Church/School

Human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery, is just becoming visible to the public. Just as coverage of Hurricane Katrina exposed the 25% impoverished population living in New Orleans, the media is beginning to shed light on the worldwide enslavement of 27,000,000 of our brothers and sisters. There are many resources for learning about this reality and ways of incorporating education and action for your church membership into what you are already doing.

Here are some suggestions:

- Do some preliminary learning about human trafficking as a basis for your efforts. See enclosed information sheet, pg. 12. Google 'human trafficking' or visit: www.sdssisters.org/slavery.
- Arrange to have an hour of in-service for the staff on human trafficking. There are persons knowledgeable about this issue, who could assist you, and excellent videos. See pg. 22.

Elementary Students

- Share the book 'Beatrice's Goat,' a story about how the gift of a goat by Heifer International changed the life of a little girl, that of her family and her entire community. As a Thanksgiving/Christmas or Lenten project, have children collect money and 'buy' an animal for a poor family. This is an important way to prevent human trafficking.
- Show the video 'Stolen Childhoods' (www.stolenchildhoods.org), a documentary on global child labor, to faculty and students. Have one faculty member prepare a lesson to discuss the video and explore the issue with students. See pg. 22.
- Implement a social studies unit on child labor. There are curriculum resources for primary, intermediate and junior high students. Go to: www.childlabor.org/education/curriculum.htm

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Junior High/High School/Youth Minister

- Hold a parent meeting to alert faculty and parents about the growing number of youth, under age 18, being lured into prostitution, also known as 'domestic trafficking' of minors. A video entitled 'Child Sex Trade' (Investigative Reports – New Video, 126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.) exposes the issue and how it preys on youth of all socio-economic backgrounds. Invite a police officer that works with juveniles to give needed information. Help parents to find ways to alert their teens about this growing danger.
- Show the clip 'Sarah's story' from the above video to discuss with students.
- Involve students in learning about justice issues. Introduce them to ways in which Fair Trade overcomes poverty. (See www.globalexchange.org or www.fairtradefederation.com). Have them identify stores in their neighborhoods that carry Fair Trade products. Have teens organize a Fair Trade campaign to encourage other businesses to carry Fair Trade products. See pg. 24 and copy the mini-poster on pg. 25.

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Social Justice/Outreach Personnel

Human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery, is just becoming visible to the public. Just as coverage of Hurricane Katrina exposed the 25% impoverished population living in New Orleans, the media is beginning to shed light on the worldwide enslavement of 27,000,000 of our brothers and sisters. There are many resources for learning about this reality and ways of incorporating education and action for your church membership into what you are already doing.

Here are some suggestions:

- Do some preliminary learning about 'human trafficking' as a basis for your efforts. See enclosed information sheet, pg. 12. Google 'human trafficking' or visit: www.sdssisters.org/slavery.
- Arrange to have an hour inservice for any persons who service the poor directly. It is important that they know about the reality of human trafficking and how to identify a possible victim. See pgs. 13-14. Laws are now in place that give protection and services to trafficked persons. Should your staff suspect a trafficking case, there is a national hotline that will assist in this process. (1-888-3737-888)
- Feature human trafficking in a session about Christian social justice. There are excellent and informative videos available. Incorporate the issue into small reflection or study groups. Explore ways that the church community and individuals could take actions to counter human trafficking.
- If your church has an outreach to the poor during Advent or Lent, consider giving money to a micro-lending organization that provides small loans to the poor. These loans enable the poor to have a means of livelihood. This discourages human trafficking. Examples are: KIVA (www.kiva.org), Heifer International (www.heifer.org) or the Grameen Bank, highlighted in a recent series on PBS called 'The New Heroes' (www.GrameenFoundation.org), or www.womenforwomen.org.
- Contact an organization that works with trafficked victims to find out about volunteer opportunities for interested church members. In Los Angeles, CAST (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking) works with victims. See www.castla.org for information.



Quotable Quotes

"Trafficking is one of the most egregious violations of human rights facing the United Nations."

(Kofi Annan)

"The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights."

(Pope John Paul II - International Conference on Trafficking)



Catholic Social Teaching

"Slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children and disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain . . . poison human society . . . and debase their perpetrators."

(*Gaudium et Spes*, #27)

"Action on behalf of justice. . . appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the gospel. . . the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive condition."

(*Justice in the World* - 1971 World Synod of Bishops)

"The joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ."

(*Gaudium et Spes* #1)

"Men and women throughout the world, even when threatened by violence, have taken the risk of freedom, asking to be given a place in social, political and economic life which is commensurate with their dignity as free human beings."

(Pope John Paul II address to the United Nations 5-8-96)

"We are witnessing. . . a new humanism, one in which humans are defined first of all by their responsibility toward their brothers and sisters. . . "

(*Gaudium et Spes* #55)

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Human Trafficking — Information

"Trafficking is one of the most egregious violations of human rights facing the United Nations." Kofi Annan

- Human trafficking is defined as 'the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for commercial sex, labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.' (Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000)
- About 700,000 persons, primarily women and children, are trafficked annually within or across international borders.
- It is not necessary for a victim to cross a border. Women and children, who are domestically trafficked for prostitution and/or forced labor within their own countries, are considered trafficked. Youth under age 18, who are involved in prostitution, are also considered trafficked.
- The criminal means by which trafficking takes place include not only force, abduction, or deception, but also less explicit means, such as abuse of a victim's vulnerability.
- Women and children are the key target groups because of their marginalization, limited economic resources and predominance in the 'invisible' informal labor sector.
- Trafficked victims frequently come from less developed countries and are taken to more developed countries. They are often promised opportunity or employment by traffickers, only to be coerced into prostitution or involuntary servitude once away from home.
- Root causes of trafficking include greed, demand for sex or for cheap products, economic or political instability, corruption, and myriad other social factors.
- Criminal groups engage in human trafficking because it is highly profitable and less risky. Unlike the trafficking of other 'commodities', people can be sold repeatedly without a large capital investment.
- The United States is one of the destination countries. Victims of trafficking originate from such nations as Russia, the Ukraine, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, the Czech Republic, Mexico and India.
- Traffickers move women and children into the U.S. through many ports of entry: Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Chicago and San Francisco. Recently, traffickers have extended their operations to Atlanta, Cleveland, Houston, Orlando, and Washington, D.C.
- In recent major trafficking cases, there have been reports of trafficking instances in every state, with most cases occurring in New York, California, Texas and Florida.
- All trafficked victims are protected under law, not only those who prove force.

How might one identify a victim?

- ✓ Has inexplicable physical injuries.
- ✓ Shows a great deal of fear and/or signs of severe trauma.
- ✓ Is unable to speak English, but has a companion speak for her/him, despite the presence of neutral interpreters.
- ✓ Cannot produce documentation of his/her legal status and identity.
- ✓ Is unable to go out or move about freely or alone.
- ✓ Has moved housing locations frequently.

Victims suffer:

Bodily injury, including: sexually transmitted diseases, infections, unwanted pregnancies, miscarriages, infertility, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, cervical cancer, complications of drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders, physical disability.

Psychological injury, including: depression, anxiety, severe stress, trauma, post-traumatic stress syndrome, tendencies toward homicide, suicide, substance abuse.

Victims often withhold information from health care or social service providers out of fear of repercussions, social stigma, threats from traffickers, or risk of being reported to law enforcement authorities.



How to Identify a Trafficked Person

<p>1. Why and how did the person come to this country?</p>	<p>Many trafficking victims are smuggled into the U.S. or come on legitimate visas with the promise of a good job. Women are often promised jobs in the restaurant industry, in domestic service, or as a dancer or model, while men may come seeking factory or agricultural labor. Once here, they may be forced to do different work and/or work off their travel 'debt.' Internal trafficking is also a crime, i.e. the person does not need to have crossed an international border to be a victim of trafficking.</p>
<p>2. How was the person recruited?</p>	<p>Many trafficking victims are recruited by acquaintances or people of their own ethnic group who offer 'success stories' in the U.S. The terms of their contract before departure are vague and they are surprised to find that they owe exorbitant debts for their travel, lodging, food, etc. Some come through fraudulent mail-order bride or matchmaking services with offers of marriage.</p>
<p>3. Does the person have identification papers?</p>	<p>Many trafficking victims have their immigration and identity documents, such as passports and/or return plane tickets, seized upon arrival in the U.S. by their traffickers or employers. The original papers may have been legitimate or fraudulently provided by the traffickers.</p>
<p>4. Does the person owe money to their employer?</p>	<p>The person may have been promised a job with good pay but found instead that they must first work off their travel debt. While doing so, they are charged exorbitant fees for rent, food, and clothes leading them into a cycle of debt to their employer.</p>
<p>5. Does the person get paid a fair wage?</p>	<p>How many hours a day/week do they work? Do they receive compensation for their work or does it go directly to the employer?</p>
<p>6. Where does the person live? Is their freedom restricted in any way?</p>	<p>Although many people receive unjustly low wages, victims of trafficking have their freedom restricted as well. They may be forced to live in the same place where they work. They may not be allowed to leave the premises and/or they may have been frightened into staying inside due to their immigration status and lack of documents (if the employer is holding them).</p>
<p>7. Has the person been threatened in any way to prevent him/her from leaving?</p>	<p>In addition to physical harm, the person may be subject to psychological intimidation and/or coercion through threats to family members if they try to leave.</p>

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Suggested Texts for Liturgical Preaching:

Cycle A.

2nd Sunday Advent:	Mt. 3: 1-12	Reform your lives. The axe is laid to the root of the tree. His winnowing fan is within his hand.
Holy Family	Mt. 2: 13-15, 19-23	Flight into Egypt
Baptism of Jesus	Is. 42: 1-4, 6-7	My Chosen One - to bring prisoners out of confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.
5th Sunday	Mt. 5: 13-16	Salt of the earth, light of the world.
6th Sunday	Mt. 5: 17-37	Commandments (murder, adultery)
7th Sunday	Lv. 19: 1-2, 17-18	Love your neighbor as yourself.
8th Sunday	1 Cor. 3: 16-23	You are the temple of God.
1st Sunday Lent	Mt. 6: 24-34	No one can serve two masters.
4th Sunday Lent	Mt. 4: 1-11	Temptations.
4th Sunday Easter	Jn. 9: 1-41	Blind man.
13th Sunday	1 Peter 2: 20-25	Put up with suffering for doing what is right.
15th Sunday	Mt. 10: 37-42	Who welcomes you, welcomes Me.
16th Sunday	Rom. 8: 18-23	The world itself will be freed from its slavery to corruption.
18th Sunday	Mt. 13: 24-43	Weeds among the wheat.
22nd Sunday	Is. 55: 1-3	Come without paying, without cost.
23rd Sunday	Mt. 14: 13-21	Multiplication of the loaves.
27th Sunday	Jer. 20: 7-9	You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped.
28th Sunday	Mt. 16: 21-37	Take up your cross.
30th Sunday	Rom. 13: 8-10	Love one another.
33rd Sunday	Is. 5: 1-7	The vineyard brought forth wild grapes.
Christ, the King	Is. 25: 6-10	On the mountain the Lord will provide a feast of rich food.
	Ex. 22: 20-26	You shall not molest or oppress an alien.
	Mt. 25: 14-30	The giving of silver pieces 5000/2000/1000.
	Ez. 34: 11-12, 15-17	The lost I seek out.
	Mt. 25: 31-46	Last Judgment.



Cycle B.

1st Sunday Advent:	Mk. 13: 33-37	Watch with a sharp eye; be on guard.
3rd Sunday Advent	Is. 61: 1-2, 10-11	Release to the prisoners.
Baptism of Jesus	Is. 42: 1-4, 6-7	My Chosen One - to bring prisoners out of confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.
2nd Sunday	1Sam. 3: 3-10, 19	Samuel was sleeping in the temple.
3rd Sunday	Jon. 3: 1-5, 10	To Jonah: Announce the message that I will tell you.
	Mk. 1: 14-20	Reform your lives; I will make you fishers of people.
5th Sunday	Job 7: 1-4, 6-7	A slave that longs for the shade; a hireling who waits for wages.
3rd Sunday Lent	Ex. 20: 1-17	Commandments
	Jn. 2: 13-25	Cleansing of the temple.
3rd Sunday Easter	Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19	You put to death the author of life; you acted out of ignorance.
4th Sunday Easter	Jn. 10: 11-18	Good Shepherd - catches sight of the wolf coming.
6th Sunday Easter	Jn. 15: 9-17	I no longer speak of you as slaves; I call you friends.
Trinity Sunday	Rom. 8: 14-17	You did not receive a spirit of slavery leading you back into fear.
13th Sunday	Wis. 1: 13-15; 2: 23-24	God did not make death, nor does God rejoice in the destruction of the living.
21st Sunday	Jos. 24: 1-2, 15-18	Our God, Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery.
24th Sunday	Jas. 2: 14-18	What good is it to profess faith without practicing it?
26th Sunday	Jas. 5: 1-6	Here, crying aloud, are the wages you withheld from the farmhands, who harvested your fields.
28th Sunday	Mk. 10: 17-30	Commandments; give to the poor.
31st Sunday	Mk. 12: 28-34	Love your neighbor as yourself.
32nd Sunday	1Kgs. 17: 10-16 Mk. 12: 38-44	Elijah and the poor widow. One poor widow came and put in two small copper coins worth about a cent.



Cycle C.

1st Sunday Advent	Lk. 21: 25-28, 34-36	Be on guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence.
3rd Sunday Advent	Lk. 3: 10-18	What ought we do?
2nd Sunday	Is. 62: 1-5	No more shall people call you 'Forsaken' or your land 'Desolate'.
3rd Sunday	Lk. 1: 1-4, 14-21	Release to prisoners.
7th Sunday	Lk. 6: 27-38	Love your enemy and do good; be compassionate.
9th Sunday	Lk. 7: 1-10	A servant, who was a that moment sick to the point of death.
3rd Sunday Lent	Ex. 3: 1-8, 13-15	I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers.
2nd Sunday Easter	Jn. 20: 19-31	If you hold them bound, they are held bound.
4th Sunday Easter	Rev. 7: 9, 14-17	Washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb; God will wipe every tear from their eyes.
10th Sunday	Lk. 7: 11-17	Widow of Naim.
13th Sunday	Gal. 5: 1, 13-18	It was for liberty that Christ freed us; you have been called to live in freedom.
15th Sunday	Lk. 10: 25-37	Good Samaritan.
16th Sunday	Col. 1: 24-28	In my own flesh I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of His Body.
18th Sunday	Lk. 12: 13-21	There was a rich man who had a good harvest. 'What shall I do?' he asked himself.
20th Sunday	Heb. 12: 1-4	Do not grow despondent or abandon the struggle.
	Lk. 12: 49-53	I have a baptism to receive. What anguish I feel until it is over!
24th Sunday	Lk. 15: 1-32	Who among you, if you have a hundred sheep and loses one of them.... follows the lost one until you find it?



Cycle C. cont.

25th Sunday	Amos 8: 4-7	You who trample on the needy...buy the lowly one for silver and the poor... for a pair of sandals.
26th Sunday	Amos 6: 1, 4-7	Woe to the complacent...stretched comfortably on their couches.
27th Sunday	Lk. 16: 19-31 Heb. 1: 2-3, 2: 2-4	Rich man and Lazarus, the beggar. How long, O Lord. I cry for help but You do not listen! You do not intervene.
28th Sunday	2 Tim. 2: 8-13	There is no chaining of the Word of God! ...Obtain the salvation to be found in Christ Jesus.
29th Sunday	Ex. 17: 8-13 2 Tim. 3: 14-4:2	As long as Moses kept his arms raised up, Israel had the better of the fight. You must remain faithful to what you have learned and believed...stay with the task whether convenient or inconvenient.
30th Sunday	Sir. 35: 12-14, 16-18	God hears the cry of the oppressed, ...is not deaf to the wail of the orphan, nor the widow when she pours out her complaint.

Homily Suggestions

Introduction

These days I see careful consumers at the grocery store. They stand with a product in hand, studying the fine print that lists its contents before putting it into their grocery carts. They know ahead of time what is safe or healthy for their families.

What if all the things we buy came with such a listing of 'contents'?! These 'contents' would be a different kind of list – disclosing what went into producing the product at the price we pay. A clothing label might list: "produced in a sweatshop with forced labor – 14 hours per day, 7 days a week at \$2.00/hour." A chocolate bar's list: "made from cocoa beans, picked by kidnapped boys of the Ivory Coast; beaten if a bag of cocoa pods is dropped; paid nothing." An X-rated magazine with a brown paper jacket across the cover would bear a warning label: "some women and children pictured here held in debt bondage, coerced into bringing these photos to you to reduce their debt."

After reading such a label, hopefully we would put the product right back on the shelf. It would be hard to live with the knowledge that what we bought actually contributed unwittingly to the slavery of the person who helped produce it!

But that is what is happening today with many of the things that have become part of our every day lives. It helps large companies get even larger –increasing their profits and keeping their stockholders happy. And concealing how the product is actually produced keeps us happy — happy because of the cheap price. But this cheap price comes at a very high price for so many of the world's poor. Someone along the 'production line' is getting short changed when prices are too good to be true. This is where slavery (human trafficking) enters the picture. To keep production costs as low as possible, millions of people around the globe are caught in the web of slavery. We outlawed slavery in the U.S. with the 13th amendment in 1865. But after 140 years, slavery is not only alive and well; it is happening to more people than at any other time in history.

- Additional information about human trafficking could be included here OR
- A story about a trafficked survivor could illustrate the above.

Additional stories may be accessed from the *Stop Trafficking* Newsletter.

Go to: <http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptrafficking/index.html>

See these archival issues for trafficking stories:

- Vol. 2 #4, 7, 8, 9, 10;
- Vol. 3 #1, #5 and #8;
- Vol. 4 #3 and #6.

Body

Connect the reality of human trafficking (slavery) to the Scripture reading of the day. See suggested texts for liturgical preaching, included in this packet.

Closing

What is our call in the face of these realities – and with God's intent for each one of us? It is a large and complex issue that can tempt us to feel powerless or hopeless. It is so easy to throw up our hands thinking there is nothing we can do. But we are also an empowered people, who could take steps to impact this devastating abuse of our brothers and sisters.

- If the parish is having an awareness-raising event, urge people to participate
- Make informed consumer choices
- Use Fair Trade products, which ensure that slave labor was not used in the production process.
(See same website above – *Stop Trafficking* newsletter for information about Fair Trade Vol. 2 #6, Vol. 3 #10 and Vol. 4 #2 p.7)
- Sponsor a fund-raiser with proceeds given to an organization assisting human trafficked survivors.
- Other responses . . .

We want to know what is safe and healthy not only for our families, but for the many people who touch our lives through their labors. Their very lives are on the line!! How might I become involved in stopping human trafficking?

Breaking the Snares Psalm 124:7



Possible Prayers of the Faithful

Saving God, open our ears to the cries of the poor, entrapped and trafficked as human slaves, we pray . . . (All respond) *Lord, save your people.*

Provident God, bless those in refugee camps and all who are uprooted from their homes and lands, we pray . . . *Lord, save your people.*

Merciful God, mindful of the many people who are oppressed, may we be aware of the ways that we ourselves oppress others, we pray . . .
Lord, save your people.

Compassionate God, move our hearts by the reality of the suffering of others and grant that we are not a cause of their pain, we pray . . .
Lord, save your people.

Loving God, help us to look beyond impressions to see the true value and dignity of every person, we pray . . . *Lord, save your people.*

Creator God, so many people cry out for healing; make us instruments of your liberation and peace, we pray . . . *Lord, save your people.*

Liberating God, empower us to bring quality of life to the enslaved and downtrodden of our world, we pray . . . *Lord, save your people.*

Mighty God, deliver us from the timidity that prevents us from performing actions on behalf of justice, we pray . . . *Lord, save your people.*

Prayer to Begin Parish Meetings

O God, we are in awe of your grace . . .
creative enough to raise up in every generation and in our midst
witnesses to take up the torch of your passion and purposes . . .
to lead this human family of yours and ours
on our common exodus to justice . . .

Strengthen us to confront the reality of human trafficking
that will bring freedom to all our brothers and sisters. **Amen**

(Adapted from 'My Heart in My Mouth' by Ted Loder, p. 56-57.)

Letter Writing to Senators or Representatives

1. To get names and contact information about current federal legislators, go to: <http://thomas.loc.gov> (alternative site: www.networklobby.org)
Find on web page: Quick links
Click onto either House Directory or Senate Directory

To get names and contact information about current state legislators, go to: <http://www.statelocalgov.net>
Choose the state - then the legislature

2. Address letters to the Committee Chair (they are required to read letters sent to them or to their committee) and/or to your own legislator(s).
3. Use the proper form of address:

The Honorable (Jane Doe)
(California) State Senate
(insert address)
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001
Dear Senator Doe:

The Honorable (John Smith)
(Wisconsin) State Assembly
(insert address)
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Dear Assembly Member Smith:

The Honorable (Jane Doe)
United States Senate
(insert address here)
Washington, DC 20510
Dear Senator Doe:

The Honorable (John Smith)
U.S. House of Representatives
(insert address here)
Washington, DC 20510
Dear Representative Smith:

4. Make sure your letter is timely. Write when legislation is pending in Committee.
5. Use your own words on your own stationery.
6. Keep your letter short and clear.
7. Identify bills by title and number. (Revisit the above thomas site for titles, etc.)
8. State reasons for your position. Tell how the issue affects you or your community, state or the country.

Breaking the Snares Psalm 124:7



Educational Videos

Elementary Children

Stolen Childhoods - documentary -45 minute video

Focuses on child labor in various parts of the world, including children trafficked for labor and sexual exploitation. Actual footage of children picking coffee beans, making bricks, involved in sex tourism, working fish platforms, carpet looms, landfills, dumps and agriculture. Features schools and efforts to rescue these children.

Obtain: www.stolenchildhoods.org

Teens

Child Sex Tourism - Documentary - 45 minute Video (Review to choose appropriate clips)

Teen prostitution as seen through a video journal of two weeks in the life of teen prostitutes. Set in Calgary, Canada, but incorporates information about New York, Los Angeles and Los Vegas. Has information about how youth are entrapped and includes two programs to rehabilitate them. Shows two rescue stories. Ends with reflection by one teen prostitute with feelings of disgust.

Obtain: New Video/126 Fifth Avenue/New York, NY 10011 (Cat. No. AAE-16135)

Teens/Adults

Look Beneath the Surface -12 minutes DVD (Government Rescue & Restore Campaign)

Gives good overview of human trafficking with some statistics. Features the testimony of a trafficked survivor and the example of a Zambian child trafficked to the U.S. Describes the tactics used by traffickers and the signs to watch for in identifying trafficked survivors. Ends with an invitation to help.

Obtain: www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking "Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking in the U.S."

Teens/Adults

Dreams Die Hard - 36 minute DVD

Three survivors of slavery share their stories: Maria, enslaved for sex and domestic work in California, Miguel, trafficked laborer in Florida, and Rose and Christy, brought from Africa to the U.S. to be maids. Features people and groups taking risks to set free U.S. slaves.

Obtain: Free the Slaves/ 1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 600/ Washington, DC 20005

Tel: 202-638-1865/ fax: 202-638-0599/ email: info@freetheslaves.net/ www.freetheslaves.net

Breaking the Snares Psalm 124:7



Breaking the Snares Psalms 124:7



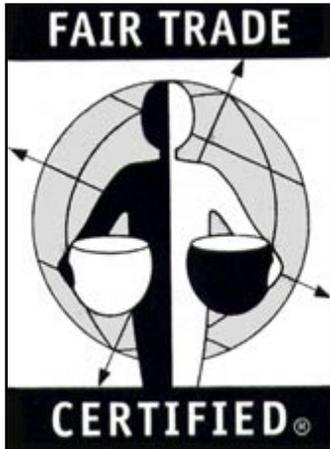
Sweat Shops - Information

- Sweatshops produce half of all clothing sold in the USA. So, unwittingly, most of us support the global sweatshop industry. Some sweatshop workers are confined against their wills because they are victims of trafficking.
- Sweatshops are workplaces where young women, men and girls labor for poverty wages in conditions that are unsafe, degrading and often abusive. Workers breathe toxic fumes, handle carcinogenic materials and operate machines with no safety mechanisms. Women are fired if they become pregnant.
- The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that more than half of the country's 22,000 sewing shops, and as much as 66% of garment factories in Los Angeles and New York violate minimum wage and overtime laws.
- Workers typically receive less than 3% of the retail price of clothing made in a U.S. sweatshop and as little as one-half of 1% of the retail price of clothing sewn overseas.
(U.S. Dept. of Labor)
- Sweatshop workers are often denied basic human freedoms, like the right to join a union, attend religious services, seek medical treatment, quit or marry. If they complain, they are fired. If they organize to improve their conditions, they are fired and blacklisted from other employment.
- The rules of the global economy allow large corporations to operate in secrecy, free from public oversight, while exploiting the most vulnerable people around the globe.
- Increasing competition, where the lowest bidder gets the jobs, is worsening the sweatshop crisis. Countries around the world will accept the poorest wages and working conditions and the weakest health and safety standards to get contracts.
- The enormous buying power of brand name companies, often thousands of miles from the factory floor, allows them to dictate extremely low prices and breakneck delivery schedules to local producers.
- The trademark "Made in the USA" is deceptive. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, workers on American Samoa "were beaten...and provided food so inadequate that some were walking skeletons.... while producing clothes for U.S. retailers such as Wal-Mart, J.C. Penny, Sears and Target.

Sweatshops/Fair Trade - Actions

1. Do a Starbucks' campaign. Steps are spelled out at:
<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/coffee/starbucks.html>.
There is background information, flyers to download, and petition forms. Consumers have been demanding that Starbucks carry Fair Trade coffee, and their response has been minimal - and only if specifically asked. In the meantime, their profits grow larger each year at the expense of the coffee pickers. They are also raising coffee prices!
2. Begin a Chocolate Campaign: M&M/Mars, the world's largest chocolate company with annual revenues of \$16 billion has refused to consider Fair Trade Chocolate. For background information, visit <http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/mmmars.html> and go through the same procedure as in number 1 above, except click on chocolate campaign. There are sample letters, flyers, free faxes and more. Use Fair Trade Chocolate for school/church/organizational fundraisers.
3. See this web site - <http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/sweatshops/actionplan.html> for steps outlined in a Sweat Free Toolkit with five sections: Taking Action, a Campaign Toolkit, a Sweatfree Policy Toolkit, a Trainers Guide and Resources. It includes coalition building, research, and meeting with local politicians. It offers good information and resources to anyone wanting to make a lasting difference in their community.
4. Become acquainted with the Fair Trade Online Store: www.globalexchange.org; click on Fair Trade Store for socially conscious gifts.
5. Organize your campus, school, community, faith-based groups with available Fair Trade Action Pacts and K-12 materials at:
<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/sweatshops/sweatfreetoolkitaction.pdf>
Advocate for Fair Trade to be used in dining halls, businesses, companies, workplaces and church events. Get schools to switch to Fair Trade chocolate for fundraisers, vending machines and cafeterias. Hold letter-writing parties to urge companies to advocate for this. See the Fundraising Guide for helpful information and help in lobbying suppliers to offer Fair Trade.
6. Write a letter to the editor or an article for your local newspaper to expose the exploitation of child labor/trafficking of workers so we have inexpensive products.
7. Write letters to the editor of your local newspapers asking why businesses, restaurants do not carry more Fair Trade products - highlighting those that do.
8. Buy Fair Trade products and use Fair Trade ingredients. For a list of products, see:
<http://www.fairtradefederation.com/mshop.html>. Make an appointment with the manager of your local food store and bring along information about child labor and fair trade products. Ask the retailer to post the Fair Trade Certified label or the Fair Trade Logo in the store as a way to make a statement about the values of the store and to raise awareness on the part of consumers about this option.

Why Fair Trade?



What we eat or drink has a ripple effect far beyond where we are standing (or sitting). Most of the coffee or chocolate we enjoy comes to us because of subsistence wages and harmful working conditions for both child and adult workers from Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Some workers are even trafficked and held as slaves!

The U.S. is the world's largest coffee and chocolate consumer. Choosing Fair Trade products gives a chance for a livelihood to the coffee/chocolate workers.

Fair Trade Certified means:

- forced and exploitative child labor is prohibited;
- guaranteed set prices that provide a living wage;
- sustainable farming is promoted.

The choices we make help change the lives of the world's poorest people - not with a handout, but with what they have justly earned.

Breaking the Snare Ps 124:7



Actions Addressing Human Trafficking

- **For continued parish education, use a section of the parish bulletin board and post current news articles about human trafficking.**
- **Go on line to get the monthly ‘Stop Trafficking’ Newsletter and print it for the bulletin board. Go to:
<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptraffic/index.html>**
- **Spread the word: talk about the issue with your acquaintances.**
- **Plan an evening awareness raising: invite a speaker or watch a video about the issue and take a group action.**
- **Write an editorial about human trafficking for your local newspaper.**
- **Use Fair Trade coffee for your parish functions. Use Fair Trade Chocolate for school fund raisers.**
- **Designate one week or weekend a year on the parish calendar to devote to continued awareness raising and action about the issue.**
- **Use some of the parish outreach monies to support a micro-lending project or to support agencies that work with trafficked survivors. Both micro-lending and Fair Trade address the root causes of human trafficking.**



Planning Calendar

Events Already in Place:

Times of the Year to Be Avoided:

Times of the Day/Evening That Work Best:

Activities Already in Place That Provide a Connection:

Awareness-Raising Event: Anti-Human Trafficking

What:

When:

Whom:

Where:

Groundwork needed:

Persons/Groups to Contact:

"Publicity" needed prior to the event:

Follow-up:

Other Days That Lend Themselves to Education About Human Trafficking

- ✓ Martin Luther King Jr. Day — 3rd Monday in January
- ✓ National Anti-Slavery Day — February 27
- ✓ Independence Day — July 4

UNITED NATIONS OBSERVANCES: INTERNATIONAL DECADES

- 2001-2010 -- International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World
- 2003-2012 -- United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All
- 2005-2014 -- United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

UN INTERNATIONAL DAYS AND WEEKS

- March 8 United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace
- April 7 World Health Day
- June 4 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- June 20 World Refugee Day
- June 26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- August 12 International Youth Day
- August 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
- September 21 International Day of Peace
- October 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- October 24-30 Disarmament Week
- November 20 Universal Children's Day
- November 21 World Television Day
- November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- December 1 World AIDS Day
- December 2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- December 10 Human Rights Day
- December 18 International Migrants Day

<http://www.un.org/geninfo/faq/factsheets/FS18.HTM>

Bulletin Announcement:

Human slavery – also known as human trafficking – is still happening today! Millions of people, including children as young as age five, are among the 700,000 people enslaved globally every year. See today's bulletin insert.



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Breaking the Snares Psalm 124:7

Slavery in the U.S. Today?



Eliza is a 14-year old Mexican girl. She was working cleaning hotel rooms when a man, Rogerio Cardena, approached Eliza's parents, telling them about a well-paying job he could get for Eliza, doing the same work north of the border in the US.

Eliza was eager to go. Her parents were reluctant. But the smooth-talking man said Eliza would be in "good hands". Eliza was taken to Houston, TX and from there to Orlando, FL. It was then that Eliza was told she would have to work as a prostitute until she paid off the \$2,200 debt for her passage out of Mexico. *Reader's Digest April 2001*

Yes! Today the US government estimates that 20,000 people are trafficked annually into the US through deception, fraud and coercion.

These people are promised good-paying jobs, but are then held against their will or are forced to work for little or no pay.

Those enslaved in the USA may be working in many venues. Indentured slaves can be found in sweatshops (clothing manufacturing), in commercial agriculture settings (fields, processing plants, canneries), in ordinary neighborhoods (maids, baby sitters), on construction sites, in restaurants and as custodial workers, or in the sex industry (under the guise of massage parlors, escort services, adult bookstores, modeling studios, or bars and strip clubs).

Globally 27 million people are enslaved. That number is equivalent to the entire population of our neighbor, Canada.

- **Slaves may have made the bricks that were used to build the factory that assembled the TV you watch.**
- **Slaves in Latin America may have made the charcoal used to temper the steel that made the springs in your car and the blades in your lawnmower.**
- **Child slaves may have picked the coffee beans that were roasted to supply your morning cup of coffee.**
- **A young girl may have been sold into a brothel in Asia to be resold every night, earning \$10,000 for her owner but only misery, abuse and illness for herself.**
- **A 7-year old Pakistani boy may have been one who spent 10-14 hours per day chained to a rug-weaving loom to help make the carpet in your home.**

"The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights."

Pope John Paul II

"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."

US/Mexico Bishops' Pastoral Letter 11.2002

"Forced labor in the US is hidden, inhumane, widespread and criminal." Study by Univ. of CA, Berkeley Human Rights Center and Free the Slaves, 09.2004



Buying products with this label guarantees that the workers are free, have been paid a living wage, and can send their own children to school.

SDS information at: Stoptraffick@aol.com

¿Existe la esclavitud en EE.UU. hoy día?



Eliza es una niña mejicana de 14 años que trabajaba limpiando habitaciones de hoteles cuando un hombre, Rogerio Cardena, habló con sus padres y les contó que podría conseguirle a Eliza el mismo trabajo que tenía, pero mejor pagado en Estados Unidos.

Eliza tenía ganas de ir pero sus padres mostraban reacios a la idea. Sin embargo, el amable hombre dijo que pondría a Eliza en "buenas manos". Llevó a Eliza a la ciudad de Houston en Texas y después a la ciudad de Orlando en Florida. Fue entonces cuando Eliza se dio cuenta de que tendría que trabajar como prostituta para pagar su deuda de \$2.200 por su pasaje para salir de Méjico. *Reader's Digest April 2001*

En el mundo 27 millones de personas viven en la esclavitud. Esa cifra equivale a la población entera de Canadá.

- **Es posible que fueran los esclavos los que fabricaron los ladrillos que se usaron en la construcción de la fábrica que montó tu televisor.**
- **Es posible que fueran los esclavos de América Latina los que fabricaron el carbón que se usó para templar el acero de los resortes en tu coche y las cuchillas de tu cortacésped.**
- **Es posible que fueran los niños esclavos los que recogieron los granos de café que se tostaron para que te tomaras tu café matutino.**
- **Es posible que se haya vendido a una niña a un burdel de Asia para vender de nuevo después sus servicios cada noche, con lo que su dueño obtendrá \$10.000 a cambio de la miseria, el abuso y las enfermedades de la victima.**
- **Es posible un niño pakistaní de 7 años se encuentre encadenado 10 a 14 horas diarias para ayudar a tejer la alfombra que está en tu casa.**

¡Si! Hoy día el gobierno estadounidense estima que se trafican a 20.000 personas al año son víctimas del tráfico en el país. A estas personas se les engaña y se las hace víctimas del fraude y la coacción.

También se les promete empleos bien remunerados, pero después no se les deja libres o se les obliga a trabajar a cambio de poco o nada de dinero.

En cuanto a las víctimas que trabajan en Estados Unidos es posible que estas se encuentren trabajando en muchos lugares diferentes. Pueden trabajar como esclavos en fábricas donde se les explota (fabricantes de ropa), en áreas de agricultura comercial (campos, plantas de procesamiento, fábricas de conservas), en barrios comunes (como criadas o niñeras), en las obras, los restaurantes y como personal de limpieza, o en la industria del sexo (en lugares que parecerían salones de masaje, servicios de acompañamiento, librerías para adultos, estudios de modelos, bares y clubs de striptease).

"La trata de personas es un delito choquante contra la dignidad humana y una violación de los derechos humanos."

El Papa Juan Pablo II

"El tráfico de personas consiste en transportar a hombres, mujeres y niños de todos los rincones del globo a otros países para que realicen trabajos forzados o para prostituirlos. El trafico constituye en si un rechazo a la dignidad humana y explota las condiciones de la pobreza en el mundo." La carta pastoral de los obispos estadounidenses y mejicanos. 11.2002

"El trabajo forzado en Estados Unidos está escondido, es inhumano, amplio y un acto criminal."

Estudio realizado por el Centro de los Derechos Humanos y el grupo Liberar a los Esclavos de la Univ. de California, Berkeley

FAIR TRADE



Quando se compran productos que llevan esta etiqueta, se garantiza que los trabajadores son libres, se les paga un salario digno y sus niños reciben una educación.

SDS information at:
Stoptraffick@aol.com

Child Slavery Today?

Request Stop Trafficking newsletter at: Stoptraffick@aol.com



Drissa left his home in Mali and traveled over 300 miles to neighboring Côte d'Ivoire in search of work, harvesting cocoa on plantations. On arrival he was sold to a plantation owner, taken to a remote plantation and forced to work from dawn until dusk with no pay.

The work was exhausting. If Drissa showed signs of tiredness he was beaten. At night, along with 17 other young men, he was locked in a small room with only a tin can as a toilet.

When Drissa was caught trying to escape, he was tied up and beaten until he couldn't walk.

(Anti-Slavery: www.antislavery.org)

In Africa a small child, Martha Wamboi, describes her life on a coffee plantation...

"I pick the raw berries, then I take them to the trough and dump them in. I get 10 shillings. Then I pick another can. For a whole day I get 60 shillings."

(Video: Stolen Childhoods)

Coffee prices have reached a 30 year low for coffee farmers, yet multinationals record huge profits. By the time the coffee reaches U.S. supermarkets, the price has gone up 4000%! But who gets that extra money?

Not the coffee farmer nor the child picker!

If you buy a \$1.50 cup of coffee, those who harvested the coffee beans may get as little as 1¢. The distributors and coffee companies get the rest.

Two years ago Starbucks raised the average price of its coffees by 11¢ at its 4500 stores in North America. A 12 oz. latte rose to \$2.30 in CA, to \$3.00 in NY. A reporter, interviewing customers, found that most people had no problem paying the extra 11¢! Why not ask to put that money in the pocket of the farmer?

By your choosing to pay a few more cents for Fair Trade coffee, you are giving a living wage to those who labor to bring coffee to you. This removes the need for child trafficking and gives poor children some hope for a future.

ACTION: Find out which stores in your neighborhood carry Fair Trade coffee.

Visit <http://www.crsfairtrade.org> to learn how to support small scale coffee growers.

Yes! Every year at least 1.2 million youngsters under 18 years of age are sold into some form of slave labor.

There are 211 million child-laborers, between the ages of 5 and 14. Of these, 171 million work in risky conditions.

About 120 million children work full time.

Fides, the News Agency for the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Jan. 2006.

On the commodities exchange in New York, cocoa prices fluctuate dramatically, while the price tag of a chocolate bar stays nearly the same. North Americans and Europeans consume 80% of the cocoa supplied by the Third World.

When you buy a 75¢ candy bar, 70¢ goes to the company, 5¢ to the farmer. M&M, the largest chocolate producer in the world, has annual profits of about \$16 billion per year. Yet M&M refuses to buy fair trade chocolate.

Fair Trade chocolate ensures a living wage to those who harvest cocoa and helps eliminate the need to resort to child trafficking. It gives children a chance to receive an education and create a life for themselves.

ACTION: Visit <http://www.globalexchange.org/cocoa> to find out where to obtain Fair Trade chocolate.



Buying products with this label guarantees that the workers are free, have been paid a living wage, and can send their own children to school.



Coffee and cocoa beans should bring dignity to the pickers, as well as pleasure to the consumers.

"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." US/Mexico Bishops Pastoral Letter 11.2002

¿Esclavitud de los niños hoy?

Pida el boletín de Stop Trafficking en: Stoptraffick@aol.com



Drissa dejó atrás su hogar en Malí y viajó más de 300 millas al vecino país de Costa de Marfil en búsqueda de trabajo cosechando cacao en las plantaciones. A su llegada fue vendido a un dueño de plantación, llevado a una plantación lejana y forzado a trabajar del amanecer al anochecer sin pago.

El trabajo era fatigoso. Si Drissa mostraba señales de cansancio le pegaban. En las noches lo encerraban en un cuarto pequeño junto con 17 jóvenes más donde sólo tenía una lata para hacer sus necesidades.

Cuando Drissa fue capturado tratando de escapar, fue amarrado y le pegaron hasta que no pudiera caminar.

(Anti-Slavery: www.antislavery.org)

**En África, una joven llamada Martha Wamboi describe su vida en una plantación de café...
"Recojo los granos crudos y los llevo al barril.
Me pagan 10 chelines. Después lleno otra lata de granos. Por un día entero de trabajo me pagan 60 chelines." (Video: Stolen Childhoods)**

Para los cultivadores de café, los precios internacionales del café han llegado a su nivel más bajo en 30 años. Sin embargo, las multinacionales generan utilidades enormes. Cuando el café llega a los supermercados en EE.UU., ¡su precio ya ha subido un 4.000%! Pero, ¿quién recibe todo ese dinero extra? ¡Ni el cultivador de café ni el niño que lo recoge! Si Usted compra una taza de café por \$1,50 dólares, quizás los que cosecharon esos granos de café recibirán 1 centavo. Los distribuidores y las empresas de café reciben todo lo de más.

Hace dos años, la empresa Starbucks aumentó el precio de una taza de café por 11 centavos en todas sus 4.500 tiendas de Norteamérica. El costo de un café con leche en California aumentó a \$2,30 dólares y a \$3,00 dólares en Nueva York. Un periodista que entrevistó a varios clientes de Starbucks descubrió que la mayoría de las personas no tenía ningún problema en pagar los 11 centavos de más. ¿Por qué no dar ese dinero al cultivador?

Al optar por pagar unos centavos más por el café proveniente del comercio justo, Usted está brindando un salario digno a los que cultivan el café que Usted toma. Esto elimina la necesidad de traficar niños para el cultivo de café y les da a estos niños pobres la esperanza de un futuro mejor.

ACCIÓN: Averigüe cuales son las tiendas en su vecindario que venden el café de comercio justo.

Visite la página de Internet
[<http://www.crsfairtrade.org>]

¡Si! Cada año 1,2 millones de jóvenes menores de 18 años son vendidos a algún tipo de esclavitud.

Hay 211 millones de niño trabajadores entre los 5 y 14 años de edad. De estos, 171 millones trabajan bajo condiciones de alto riesgo. Aproximadamente 120 millones de niños trabajan a tiempo completo.

(citado en FIDES, la agencia de prensa del vaticano Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, enero de 2006.)

En el mercado de mercancías de Nueva York, los precios del cacao fluctúan dramáticamente mientras que el precio de una golosina de chocolate sigue más o menos igual. Los norteamericanos y los europeos consumen el 80% del cacao que se cultiva en el Tercer Mundo.

Cuando Usted compra una golosina en barra de chocolate por 75 centavos, 70 centavos van a la empresa y 5 centavos van al cultivador del cacao. La empresa M&M, la fabricante más grande de chocolate en el mundo, genera alrededor de 16 mil millones de dólares en utilidades cada año. No obstante, M&M se rehúsa a comprar el cacao proveniente del comercio justo.

El cacao de comercio justo asegura un salario digno a los que cosechan el cacao y ayuda a eliminar la necesidad de traficar niños para su cultivo. Les da a estos niños la oportunidad de recibir una educación y vivir sus vidas a su manera.

ACCIÓN: Visite la página de Internet
[www.globalexchange.org/cocoa]
para averiguar dónde obtener el cacao de comercio justo.



Cuando se compran productos que llevan esta etiqueta, se garantiza que los trabajadores son libres, se les paga un salario digno y sus niños reciben una educación.



El café y el cacao deben brindar dignidad a las personas que los cosechan, así como dar placer a los consumidores.

"El tráfico de personas, que hace referencia a la práctica en la que se traslada a hombres, mujeres y niños de todo el mundo a otros países con fines de prostitución o trabajo forzados, rechaza intrínsecamente la dignidad del ser humano y se aprovecha de la pobreza mundial". Carta pastoral escrita por obispos de EEUU y México, noviembre de 2002

