

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA
1869-1947
MEMORIAL: FEBRUARY 8

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

February 8th has been designated by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8th is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. She learned from Canossian nuns that she was created in the image of God and possessed human dignity. Once she asserted herself and refused to be enslaved, Josephine became a Canossian sister and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering

In October 2000, Josephine Bakhita was canonized by Pope John Paul II, at which point he noted that “in St. Josephine Bakhita we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights.” (St. Bakhita’s Canonization Mass, October 1, 2000)



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St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery
as a child
and endured untold hardship and suffering.
Once liberated from your physical enslavement,
you found true redemption in your encounter with
Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a
state of slavery;
Intercede with God on their behalf
so that they will be released from their chains
of captivity.
Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery
and let them look to you as an example of hope
and faith.
Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.
We ask for your prayers and intercessions for
those enslaved among us.

Amen.

Santa Josefina Bakhita, cuando niña, fuiste vendida
como esclava
y tuviste que pasar indecibles dificultades y
sufrimiento.
Una vez liberada de tu esclavitud física,
hallaste la verdadera redención en tu encuentro
con Cristo y su Iglesia.

Oh, Santa Bakhita, ayuda a todos aquellos que
están atrapados en la esclavitud;
en nombre de ellos, intercede ante Dios
para que sean liberados de las cadenas de
su cautiverio.
Que Dios libere a todo aquel que ha sido
esclavizado por el hombre.

Bríndales alivio a los que sobreviven la esclavitud
y permite que ellos te vean como modelo de fe
y esperanza.
Ayuda a todos los sobrevivientes para que
encuentren la sanación de sus heridas.
Te suplicamos orar e interceder por los que se
encuentran esclavizados entre nosotros.

Amén.