



Fall 2015

Dear Parish Leader,

“Insidious” is the best word I can think of to describe the horror of human trafficking. This modern-day form of slavery robs victims of their dignity and freedom, poisons the hearts and minds of perpetrators, and has become an industry that rivals drug trafficking in its global network and profiteering.

People around the world and in Wisconsin are beginning to combat this repulsive crime. They are learning about human trafficking, establishing safe houses for victims, and writing laws that protect victims and increase penalties for perpetrators. However, more work needs to be done. How can each of us answer Pope Francis’ call to end modern slavery by 2020? What can our Catholic parishes in Wisconsin do to end human trafficking?

Because we know how important it is to advocate for justice, the Wisconsin Region of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious has developed a parish toolkit loaded with information about human trafficking. This toolkit is offered to you at no charge because of generous underwriting from an anonymous donor.

Please adapt the enclosed toolkit for your purposes. The toolkit contains:

- Wisconsin Resource Sheet – A summary of anti-human trafficking speakers, advocacy groups, websites, and social media sites
- Hotline cards – The national hotline is easy to remember: 888-3737-888. Let’s make sure people know it. We’ve enclosed a few courtesy copies and invite you to make more using the artwork on the flash drive. Distribute the cards to your parishioners, stock them in your parish gathering space and/or circulate them where victims might see them: hotels, truck stops, doctor’s office, shopping malls, restaurants/bars, etc.
- Two DVDs (both focus on sex trafficking)
 1. “Chosen” by Shared Hope International. Includes discussion guides to precede and follow showing.
 2. “What Does Human Trafficking Look Like In Wisconsin?” a presentation coordinated by Sister Celine Goessl, SCSC, featuring a number of resource persons familiar with the Wisconsin experience. Facilitator’s guide on flash drive.
- Wisconsin-based infographics about sex trafficking and labor trafficking
- Flash drive
 1. PowerPoint presentation – Defines human trafficking, what industries are often connected to it, Catholic Social Teaching of human trafficking, how prevalent labor and sex trafficking are in Wisconsin, recommended resources and how to help. Speaker’s notes are included.
 2. Artwork for hotline cards – Order through gotprint.com for lowest prices -- 500 cards for only \$13 or 1,000 cards for \$17 (prices subject to change).
 3. Facilitator’s guide to DVD, “What Does Human Trafficking Look Like In Wisconsin?”

Audiences and ideas for using the toolkit:

- Social Concerns Committee
- Adult Faith Formation Groups
- A Day of Prayer/Education
 - January which is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
 - Feb. 8 which is the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, the 19th century Sudanese nun who as a child had been sold into slavery
- An interfaith discussion

Other ways you can help:

1. Pray for the end of human trafficking
2. Host a speaker for adult members to hear
3. Support fair trade products at home, work or in your parish
4. Share what you learn with someone else

Once you are aware of the scale of human trafficking and the damage it inflicts you cannot remain indifferent, to paraphrase the Holy Father. Please join us in ending the exploitation of children, women and men. May we model Jesus' public ministry during which he preached to and healed the physically and spiritually wounded. Through him, all things are possible.

Blessings,



Sister Pat Cormack, SCSC
LCWR-Region 9 Chair

*This toolkit is a cooperative effort of legislative action representatives,
communicators and members of Wisconsin's region of LCWR.
We can be reached at communications@fspa.org.*

LCWR-Wisconsin members: A New Genesis • Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes • Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
• Holy Cross Sisters • Racine Dominicans • School Sisters of Notre Dame • School Sisters of St. Francis • Servants of Mary
• Sinsinawa Dominicans • Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida • Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
• Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross • Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis • Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres
• Sisters of the Divine Savior • Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother