

International Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking to be Observed February 8th

February 6, 2018

WASHINGTON—The International Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking will be observed on February 8th. Designated by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General as a time of remembrance for victims and survivors of forced labor and commercial sex trafficking, the day coincides with the feast of [St. Josephine Bakhita](#).

With an estimated over 25 million women, children, and men trapped in modern-day slavery, February 8th offers an opportunity to educate communities of faith about the prevalence of trafficking and to pray for its victims, who are often “hidden in plain sight”. Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, notes “through prayer we grow in solidarity with those that have suffered this affront to human dignity. We demonstrate to survivors that they are not alone.”

In honor of this important day, the USCCB’s Migration and Refugee Services, the Archdiocese of Washington, the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, and Trinity Washington University will host an [Inter-Religious Prayer Service](#) to remember victims and survivors of human trafficking, and to reflect on how we can unite against modern-day slavery. The service will take place on February 8th at 6:30 PM at the Chapel of Trinity University (125 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC). To RSVP for an evening of prayer with representatives from the world’s major religions, see [Inter-Religious Service](#).

For help in hosting an awareness event or prayer service locally, visit [Become a Shepherd](#) for downloadable resources.

Keywords: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCCB, Bishop Joe Vásquez, Committee on Migration, St. Josephine Bakhita, human trafficking, anti-trafficking, forced labor, modern-day slavery

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USCCB Launches New Mobile Responsive [ForYourMarriage.org](#) Website

February 5, 2018

WASHINGTON—In conjunction with the start of National Marriage Week USA, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is pleased to announce the launch of a new mobile responsive ForYourMarriage.org website on February 7, 2018.

Originally launched in 2007, ForYourMarriage.org is an initiative of the USCCB that began as the communications component of the National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage. It continues to play a key role in advancing the USCCB's priority on marriage and family.

Thanks to a grant received from the Catholic Communications Campaign, the new website, developed in collaboration with Crosby Communications and Marketing, includes updated content, graphics, and a new section dedicated to marriage and family ministry leaders.

"I hope this new platform will reach many more people with the message of God's plan for marriage and be a source of support to husbands and wives at every stage of their vocational journey," said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap, of Philadelphia, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

ForYourMarriage.org offers numerous resources on the meaning and beauty of marriage in God's plan and provides support to couples at every stage of their journey. There are sections dedicated to dating, marriage preparation, mixed marriages, parenting and family, natural family planning, the stages of marriage, among others. A marriage resource section offers daily marriage tips, marriage help and support links, and solutions to common challenges. Finally, questions specific to planning a Catholic wedding as well as related Church documents and teachings are available on the website.

Along with these resources, the website features couples who write about their real-life experiences as engaged, newlyweds, or seasoned couples with weekly blog posts. Feature articles include book reviews, reports on current events and research related to marriage, and recent teachings about marriage and family life from the Holy Father.

Other websites hosted by the USCCB and dedicated to promoting marriage include PorTuMatrimonio.org and MarriageUniqueForAReason.org.

Keywords: marriage, family, USCCB, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, For Your Marriage, Por Tu Matrimonio, Marriage Unique for a Reason

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