



January 13, 2022

Join Catholic Sisters in Praying and Working to End Human Trafficking

~ by Gail DeGeorge, *Global Sisters Report*



Photo credit: Unsplash/Hermes Rivera

The fight against human trafficking continues, 15 years after the United States designated January 11 [as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day](#) in 2007, and January as [National Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#) in 2010.

Catholic sisters around the world are deeply committed to ending the scourge of modern-day slavery. Through regional organizations, such as the [U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking](#) and Rome-based [Talitha Kum](#), initiated by the International Union of Superiors

General as a "network of networks" active in five continents coordinating efforts of congregations in 60 or more networks, sisters work to raise awareness, aid and rehabilitate victims, and lobby for stricter laws and enforcement.

The Global Sisters Report (GRS) reflects these efforts in their coverage of sisters' ministries and work related to human trafficking. They also take opportunities to help raise awareness through other venues. The [GSR in the Classroom](#) curriculum, for instance, offers six [lessons about human trafficking](#). GSR correspondent Soli Salgado, who has reported extensively about human trafficking, produced a special [video presentation](#) for the annual California Ministry Conference Hope, Heal, Renew, sponsored by eight dioceses and archdioceses from California, Nevada and Hawaii. The 2021 conference was a virtual gathering held November. 4-6.

The hourlong segment, entitled, "Migrating Toward Exploitation: Why Migrants Are Susceptible to Human Trafficking, and How Sisters Are Helping," featured an explanatory introduction, plus interviews with Sr. Sally Duffy, a Sister of Charity of Cincinnati who is involved with migration and trafficking issues, and Jennifer Reyes Lay, executive director of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking.

There are also other official days to commemorate trafficking victims and efforts to raise awareness and stop human trafficking. February 8 is the feast day of [St. Josephine Bakhita](#), who was born in Sudan and sold into slavery and taken to Italy where she eventually joined the Canossian Sisters. February 8 is a [World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action against Human Trafficking](#), designated by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General. The theme for this year's day of prayer is "The Power of Care – Women, Economics, Human Trafficking."

In addition, the United Nations observes the [World Day Against Trafficking in Persons](#) on July 30.

While much of the attention of anti-trafficking is on women and children who are trafficked and abused, there is also growing attention to the labor trafficking and workers who are exploited.

There can never be enough attention to the issue of human trafficking, or the efforts by Catholic sisters and others to help women, children and vulnerable adults avoid becoming victims of trafficking, or assisting those who are already caught in the trap. So, this day, this month, February 8th and every day take time to pray and add your efforts to the cause to stop human trafficking. To read the complete article, please click [here](#)

The Missionary Sisters of the Guadalupe Province have a Corporate Stance on Human Trafficking.

To learn more please click [here](#) and [here](#) to download a PDF of the Corporate Stance brochure.

What **You** Need to Know about Trafficking

More than 21 years ago, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 enshrined the United States commitment to combating human trafficking domestically and internationally

President Joe Biden recently proclaimed January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The president called upon "businesses, civil society organizations, communities of faith, families, and all Americans to recognize the vital role we play in combating human trafficking."

Current statistics show that \$99 billion per year is made from sex trafficking.

- 4.5 million people worldwide are victims of forced sexual exploitation.
- 51 billion per year from the use of forced labor.
- 21 million people worldwide are now victims of forced labor.
- 1 in 6 endangered runaways in the United States are likely to be victims of sex trafficking.

If you ever find yourself needing to report incidents of suspected human trafficking, the United States National Human Trafficking Hotline can be reached 24/7 and has access to over 200 languages through a tele-interpreting service at 1-888-373-7888 or by texting "BeFree" to 233733. Every report to the United States National Human Trafficking Hotline is referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies for investigation. ~ submitted by Karol Brewer, Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition

To learn how you can get involved in the fight to eradicate human trafficking, please click [here](#)

Editor's note: In doing research for this week's Update, the following article came to light. As we begin a new year, these prayer ideas could be a gift we give ourselves.

Three Prayer Tips that will Improve Your Life

~ Jim McDermott, SJ, AMERICA Magazine

This week, "The Guardian" released a list of "100 ways to slightly improve your life without really trying." It is excellent. Among my personal favorites are No. 55, "Learn the name of ten trees"; No. 30, "Be polite to rude strangers – it's oddly thrilling"; and No. 100, "For instant cheer, wear yellow."

At the same time, when I got to the end of the list, part of me wondered: Why isn't there some version of "Take two minutes to pray/meditate" on this list?

I am not suggesting you need to take a knee and say or think of some set of words. It is about taking a moment to put yourself into a relationship with something bigger than us, however you understand that – God, our ancestors, the universe.

In fact, there are a lot of meaningful ways of praying, no matter your spiritual background or experience and they don't all require a lot of effort. Here are three methods you might try. Each can be done in two to five minutes. I promise that over time, they really can improve your life.

Tip # 1 Look at the stars, the sky and the ocean



St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, used to love to just sit and look at the stars. It doesn't sound like a terribly pious or religious activity, but when you look out on something truly vast, it changes your perspective on everything. Not only do big issues start to seem a little smaller, but you are confronted with the fact that we ourselves are just a tiny piece of a much bigger reality.

That can be scary in a way; no matter how much I would like it to be otherwise, I am not in control here! But learning that can

also be an invitation to let go and simply be a part of this astonishing infinite universe that God has created. I don't have to be in control, I can just be. And that is a blessed relief.

Tip # 2 Savor the present as the present it is

Sometimes people quip that a meal or evening spent together was so good that "it was a like a religious experience." But in fact when we take the time to live in the moment and pay attention to what's happening to us, *it really can be* a kind of religious experience.

In his book of creative spiritual exercises, *Wellsprings*, the spiritual writer Anthony DeMello, S.J., suggests a great practice to help us do this. Sit down somewhere, he says, take a breath, close your eyes and then just listen to the world around you. Hear the sounds that have been surrounding you all this time, probably mostly without you noticing them. Drink them in.

Then, after a minute or so, open your eyes, and now savor what you see before you. Maybe it is the streaks of light on the wall or a picture on your mantel that you haven't really looked at in a long time or it is the way the snow flops up against your window. Whatever it is, once again, just try to sit there and enjoy it. Then do it all over again – close your eyes and listen: open your eyes and look. It is amazing how much just doing that can make you feel more grounded and aware of even the most ordinary parts of your life as a gift.

A fun alternative is to do this over a meal. When you close your eyes, instead of listening, spend a minute just tasting the food in your mouth and savoring its aromas.



Tip # 3 Let the universe show itself to you.

So much of what we call “prayer” in the Catholic Church involves some kind of talking. I say my prayers every night; I pray to God asking for help with X, Y or Z. It is an activity we do that involves us communicating.



But there's a whole other way of thinking about prayer that is rather about giving God or the universe the chance to communicate with us, to tell us something. It is more about “actively being,” which is to say stepping back from the hustle and bustle of our lives for a few moments to simply sit quietly, eyes open, breathing slowly and see what thoughts, memories or experiences come to us.

This is a way to see those things as themselves and as what God wants us to have or see right now.

I tend to think most of us really are praying a lot more than we think, just not in the ways we were taught as kids. Becoming our own spiritual persons is a lot about letting some of those old definitions fall away like an old husk of self. A few moments' intentions can be just as satisfying as No. 59 – “Always have dessert.”

A New Email Address – Please make a note.

Sr. Eileen Currie, MSC
Eileencurrie708@gmail.com

Thank you!

From the Guadalupe Province Vocation Promotion Team...

Key Findings about Catholic Youth and Young Adults

~ from HORIZON, the journal of the National Religious Vocations Conference

The conclusions of a recently completed examination of the pastoral needs of youth and young adults are important information for all vocation ministers [and indeed, all religious institutes.] The National Religious Conference was one of approximately 75 Catholic organizations that took part in an extensive, multi-year process of listening to the concerns of young people and those who minister among them.



The conclusions are significant for two major reasons. First, they matter because the form and process that led to the conclusions of the National Dialogue were highly inclusive and exhaustive. It's important to listen to what emerges from such a thorough appraisal. Secondly, the conclusions of the National Dialogue matter because **one of the key things**

young adults are asking for is accompaniment in vocational decisions, vocation in the broad sense of the word, not strictly entrance to a religious order.

Vocation ministers operate from two platforms and often move seamlessly between them. On the one hand, they invite people into their communities and walk with women and men interested specifically in religious life. On the other hand, vocation ministers also walk with young people who are uncertain about life direction and want the wisdom of the church to help them live Christian discipleship in general, not necessarily discipleship as a consecrated person. The National Dialogue report is a strong reminder that young people desire this second form of vocation ministry.

Trends that emerged from the process

- The young people in these conversations are actively engaged in their faith, yet still struggle with the church.
- There is incredible diversity among youth and young adults in terms of culture, ecclesial perspective, spirituality and lived experiences.
- As awareness and responsiveness to this diversity may at times be lost in ministries with a diverse community of young people.
- Young people and ministry leaders want more listening as was found in the model of the National Dialogue, the V Encuentro, and the Synod.
- The participants, by and large, wanted to see church leadership and their fellow Christians be more authentic and less judgmental and divisive.
- The young people in these conversations have a very strong sense of mission; they want to change the world.

Next week: Ten Main Recommendations Emerged from the Dialogue

Prayer Requests

Paul Bethany

Dr. Adeline Bethany, Professor Emerita of Cabrini University, asks for prayers for her son Paul. Paul has a collapsed lung that has resulted from a very serious bout with Covid 19 a few months ago. Please pray that he will recover from this medical setback. Please pray, too, for strength for Dr. Bethany.

Missionary Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent

Please keep the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart Convent in your prayers. They have been in lockdown the past two weeks due to Covid. At this time, all the sisters are doing well and do not have serious symptoms. Please pray that all the sisters will remain well.

Prayers for a healthy pregnancy

Rosemary Gehrlein, staff member of Cabrini University, asks for prayers for her nephew and his wife. The couple have experienced several miscarriages and are hopeful that their current pregnancy will come to term and that their baby daughter will be born healthy in July.



Don Wingerter

Florence Wingerter, Cabrini High School alumna and trustee, asks the prayers of the faithful Cabrini Community for her husband, Don, who will be undergoing surgery on Thursday, January 20th. They are most thankful for our prayers.

Victoria Calabro Zvasnik

Your prayers are requested for Victoria Calabro Zvasnik, a former MSC, who needs prayer as her cancer has returned. Let us pray for her return to full health.

In Loving Memory

Kenneth Ackert

Please unite in prayer for Kenneth Ackert who passed away on January 9th from complications of COVID. He is the uncle of Judy Connolly, the Administrative Secretary at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY. May he rest in peace.

Anthony Casciano

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Anthony Casciano, the brother of Sr. Bernadette Casciano, MSC, who passed away on Tuesday, January 11th. Please pray for his wife, Anna Marie and family during this time of their loss. Please pray, too, for Sr. Bernadette, as she mourns the loss of her brother with whom she was very close.

Chad

A young boy (age 13) went home to God on January 11th. Chad was hit by a car several months ago and was hospitalized with a severe infection. His mother Ayonia was a former aide at Sacred Heart Convent and needed to leave employment to attend to her son, as well, as her husband, who is ill. Let us pray for Chad, and for his parents at this very sad time. May God give them strength.

Fire victims in the Bronx

We offer our prayers and heartfelt condolences for all those who perished in the devastating fire in the Bronx, NY, which killed 17 people, nine of them children. Pope Francis sent a telegram to New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan offering “heartfelt condolences and the assurance of his spiritual closeness” to those affected by the blaze. Many of the residents of the apartment building were originally from the West African nation of Gambia. Our hearts go out to this community as they grieve the loss of so many family members and friends.

Sr. Mary Ann Hawes, MSC

MEMORIAL MASS
FOR
Sr. Mary Ann Hawes, MSC
MAY 24, 1929 - JANUARY 3, 2022
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22
1:00 P.M.
ST. FRANCES CABRINI SHRINE
701 FORT WASHINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10040

Please unite in prayer for the repose of the soul of Sr. Mary Ann Hawes, MSC who returned home to God on Monday, January 3rd. Her Mass of the Resurrection was held on January 10th at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Sr. Mary Ann was a long-time educator. Sr. Mary Ann was very involved at the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine in New York City where she conducted the bell choir and served as a lector and cantor. She will be deeply missed.

May she rest in God’s eternal light.

A Memorial Mass for Sr. Mary Ann will be held at the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in New York on Saturday, January 22. The Mass will be live-streamed on the Shrine Facebook page. The stream will be accessible on the Shrine Facebook page after the Mass has ended, so if viewing the Mass live is not possible, it can be accessed there at a later time.

Jane A. (Bain) Henny

It is with great sadness that the Cabrini University community shares the January 7th passing of Mrs. Jane A. (Bain) Henny, the mother of Patricia Stocker, Assistant to the Dean of Business and Professional Studies. She was truly a very special woman who enjoyed the fun in life, she will be missed by her children, grandchildren, and extended family and friends.

The Cabrinian Community sends its deepest condolences to Patti and her family. A Mass in the Bruckmann Memorial Chapel of Saint Joseph will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Madacz

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mr. Madacz, the father of former Cabrini Mission Corps missionary, Mindy Madacz. Mr. Madacz had been ill for some time, but his passing on January 4th was not at all expected. Mindy had just been at home with her parents for Christmas. Please pray for Mindy and her mother, both of whom are currently ill with Covid, as they mourn the loss of their father and husband. Keep the Madacz family in your prayers.

Monsignor Thomas Modugno

Your prayers are requested for Monsignor Thomas Modugno, a priest in residence at Epiphany Parish in New York City, who returned home to the Lord on Tuesday, January 11th. Monsignor was a good friend of many Missionary Sisters. He will be deeply missed. May he rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

Natalie McMaster



Your prayers are requested for 18 year-old Natalie McMaster, the grandniece of Cabrini University alumna and former trustee, Claire Roth, who passed away peacefully on January 12th after a long and courageous battle with leukemia. Natalie had a smile that could light up a room. She was beloved by her family and friends. Please pray for her parents, Tony and Eileen, her older sister Abbey, her grandparents, Lynn Panetta, and Jim and Rita McMaster, her grand-aunt Claire, and their extended family at this sad time. Natalie requested that everyone celebrate her life by wearing lots of color to her funeral Mass.

Helena Teresa Ottaviano

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Helena Teresa Ottaviano, who passed away in Florida on January 9th after an illness with Covid and pneumonia. She is the mother of Dr. Lorenzo Ottaviano, a good friend to many of the Cabrini Sisters as well as a Board Member on the Cabrini Mission Foundation Board.

William Pickett

William Ronald "Bill" Pickett passed away on December 31, 2021 with his family by his side. Mr. Pickett was the father of former Cabrini Mission Corps missionary Jayne Pickett. Bill was a man of deep faith, who touched many people around him. At this sad time, we send our prayers and condolences to Jayne and her family. May he rest in peace.

Danny Zanon

We offer our deep condolences to Sr. Alice Zanon, MSC, upon the passing of her brother, Danny, on Tuesday, January 11th. Mr. Zanon had been in fragile health and sustained a fall. Let us pray for his wife, Alice, and all the members of the Zanon family.

