

INFO ALERT 238

January 27, 2026

“Throughout the world, it is hoped that every community becomes a ‘house of peace,’ where one learns how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced, and forgiveness is cherished. Now more than ever, we must show that peace is not a utopia.” — Pope Leo XIV

Peace Begins with Dignity: A Global Call to End Human Trafficking

Since 2015, at the request of Pope Francis, the Catholic Church has called for an International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. This Day takes place on February 8, the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, who is the patron saint for all victims of trafficking. The goal of this day is to provide support to those who work with trafficked victims and to pressure government leaders to work diligently for the eradication of trafficking in all of its forms.

For more information about human trafficking: <https://preghieracontrotratta.org/more-on-trafficking>

Prayer Service for this day can be found here:

[https://preghieracontrotratta.org/files/documenti/EN Vigil of Prayer 2026.docx 1 E8v2xQT.pdf](https://preghieracontrotratta.org/files/documenti/EN_Vigil_of_Prayer_2026.docx_1_E8v2xQT.pdf)

CLIMATE CHANGE

A statement from the Maryknoll Office for Global Affairs expresses disappointment that the United States is withdrawing from all global treaties that address the effects of climate change worldwide, particularly in countries that are most vulnerable and least able to mitigate such changes. A series of executive orders that President Trump signed on January 7 withdrew our country from sixty-six U.N. treaties that the President considered detrimental to the economic growth of the United States. The most important among these was the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. This 1992 treaty facilitated international climate negotiations, under which the Paris Agreement that sought to rein in greenhouse gas emissions was born. The U.S. withdrew from the Paris Agreement in 2025, on the first day of Donald Trump’s second term in office, and this withdrawal became effective on January 20. The executive orders the president signed this January take effect a year from now.

You can read the Maryknoll Statement here: <https://maryknollogc.org/2026/01/09/maryknoll-office-for-global-concerns-opposes-u-s-withdrawal-from-global-climate-framework/>

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

The Catholic Church is attempting to reassure migrants and their families that the Church stands with them. It is in response to the fear and uncertainty caused by an increased ICE presence and the threat of deportation, which is gripping immigrant communities across our country. In an effort to offer pastoral support and accompaniment to these communities, the Catholic Church has initiated a response entitled “You Are Not Alone.”

This response involves actions which focus on emergency and family support, solidarity through public prayer and witness, accompaniment, and pastoral care. It provides practical ways for local organizations and individuals to stand with migrant families and respond with compassion and support in these uncertain times. To learn more about this:

<https://justiceforimmigrants.org/you-are-not-alone/>

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

Saint Josephine Bakhita,

You were sold into slavery as a child and endured unspeakable hardship and suffering.
Once liberated from your physical enslavement,
you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.
O Saint Josephine Bakhita, assist all those who are entrapped in slavery;
Intercede on their behalf with the God of Mercy
so that the chains of their captivity will be broken.
May God Himself free all those who have been threatened, wounded, or mistreated
by the trade and trafficking of human beings.
Bring comfort to survivors of this slavery and teach them to look to Jesus
as an example of hope and faith, so that they may find healing from their wounds.
We ask you to pray for us and to intercede on behalf of us all:
that we may not fall into indifference, that we may open our eyes and be able to see
the misery and wounds of our many brothers and sisters
deprived of their dignity and their freedom, and may we hear their cry for help. Amen

Action

1. Reach out to immigrants in whatever way you can: a prayer, a smile, a word of gratitude.
Take the Cabrini Pledge: <https://www.usccb.org/cabrinipledge>
2. Pray for an end to human trafficking.
3. Find ways to be a peacemaker in your family and workplace.