

*“He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives....”* (Lk 4:18)

Did you know that right here in northwest Ohio slavery still exists today? “Whether it is called human trafficking, bonded labor, forced labor, or sex trafficking, it is present worldwide, including within the United States” and, increasingly, in **our own diocese**. (National Underground Railroad Freedom Center)

Human trafficking is defined as “the recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining of a person for commercial sex or labor through force, fraud, or coercion.” After drug dealing, human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the world. From 800,000 to 900,000 persons are trafficked annually within or across international borders, over half of them children under the age of 18. Those most at risk to be trafficked are children, vulnerable women, **the homeless**, run-aways, and immigrants.

Click on any of the links listed below to become more informed. Meet with your pastor or parish leader, Pastoral Council, Respect Life Committee, and Social Justice Committee to discuss how your parish will address this serious humanitarian issue. Consider such actions as purchasing only Fair Trade products, offering a presentation on the issue, scheduling a letter writing campaign urging our elected officials to support legislation to end human trafficking, and praying for the strength to live the gospel of Jesus!

### **Local**

<http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090104/NEWS24/901040299>

<http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060110/NEWS03/60110001&SearchID=73234862745276>

### **National**

Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking  
Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc.  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
US Department of State

[www.stophumantrafficking.org](http://www.stophumantrafficking.org)  
[www.humantraffickingawareness.com](http://www.humantraffickingawareness.com)  
[www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)  
[www.state.gov/g/tip](http://www.state.gov/g/tip)

### **International**

American Anti-Slavery Group	<a href="http://www.iabolish.org">www.iabolish.org</a>
Coalition Against Trafficking in Women	<a href="http://www.catwinternational.org">www.catwinternational.org</a>
Free the Slaves	<a href="http://www.freetheslaves.net">www.freetheslaves.net</a>
Hagar Project	<a href="http://www.hagarproject.org">www.hagarproject.org</a>
Human Trafficking.org	<a href="http://www.humantrafficking.org">www.humantrafficking.org</a>
International Justice Mission	<a href="http://www.ijm.org">www.ijm.org</a>
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center	<a href="http://www.freedomcenter.org">www.freedomcenter.org</a>
Polaris Project	<a href="http://www.polarisproject.org">www.polarisproject.org</a>
Protection Project	<a href="http://www.protectionproject.org">www.protectionproject.org</a>
Shared Hope International	<a href="http://www.sharedhope.org">www.sharedhope.org</a>