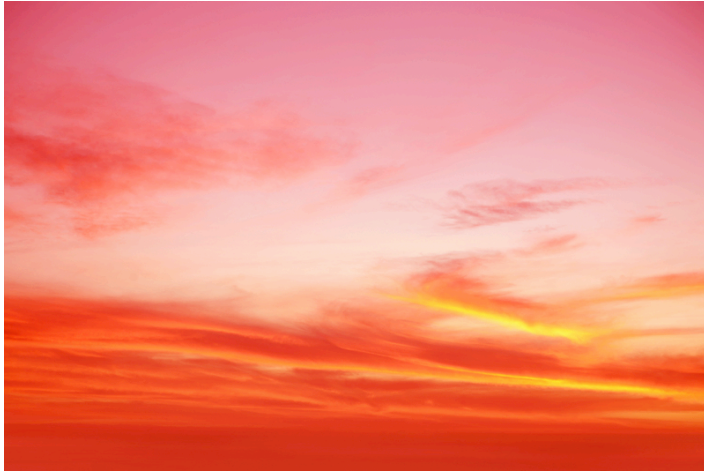


PENTECOST NOVENA



CAST

Flor left her home and her children in Mexico to work in a neighbor's clothing factory in Los Angeles. As a single mother, she wanted an opportunity to save money so she could eventually open her own seamstress business back home. Instead, she found 17 hour days, and mistreatment that ranged from verbal abuse to being locked into the factory. Her plan to work six months and then return was completely derailed. (<http://www.msmagazine.com/summer2007/invisibleones.asp> for more)



Mimin also pursued her dream and followed her employer to the United States to work as their domestic help in an upscale community north of Los Angeles. Thousands of miles from her home and family in Indonesia, Mimin was isolated, forbidden to leave the house, and forced to work without pay. Her employers took her passport and warned her that she would be arrested or raped if she left the house. She cleaned, cooked, and cared for the family's children and pets for seven years before she had an opportunity to escape. (http://thestory.org/archive/the_story_1005_Mimin.mp3/view for more)

Both these women eventually found a Good Samaritan who directed them to the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking. Better known as CAST, the organization provides free shelter and client-centered services for victims of human trafficking. Through social services and legal assistance, survivors are empowered to re-engage and recover from their experience. Their resilience often astounds those who know their story. Some survivors choose to join the modern anti-slavery movement and become advocates for themselves and others. As members of the CAST Caucus of Survivors, they tell their stories to communities groups and to Congress in an effort to create a world in which no one will suffer like they did.

You can watch or read some of their stories here:

<http://www.castla.org/survivor-stories>



CAST collaborates with many women religious in its efforts to help survivors and advocate for change. Sisters of Notre Dame in California partner with CAST to provide a shelter where survivors can receive services in a safe, loving and confidential environment. Sisters in other orders also serve on the board and in fundraising efforts. Many congregations offer emergency supplies for rescued victims through the Freedom Bag project.

ACTION

You may never meet a trafficking survivor, but in case you do, keep hotline numbers in your phone or wallet:

National Hotline:

888.3737.888

CAST 24 hour hotline

888.KEY.2.FRE(EDOM)

888.539.2373

Prayers

Good and Provident God, you are the compassionate and loving Creator of all. With trust, we claim your justice, mercy, compassion, and comfort for the millions affected by human trafficking in our world today. God of all goodness, give freedom to those who are bound by the chains of modern-day slavery. Comfort those who are trapped and exploited, heal their hurts, give them courage and hope. Awaken in the hearts of those who are buying, selling, and holding other human beings enslaved, a sense of righteousness and justice. Unsettle those whose apathy allows human trafficking to go unchallenged. Give wisdom and insight to all lawmakers. Give valor and integrity to those who enforce the laws. Holy Spirit, show each of us how to live as a hope-filled presence in our world until all God's children are set free. Amen.

--Sr. Mary Pat Fitz, SND

Prayer to End Human Trafficking

Heavenly Father, we pray for the release of the millions of innocent children, teenagers, women and men who have been drawn into prostitution, sweatshops and domestic servitude by human trafficking. Increase our awareness of this terrible injustice. May the compassionate people who seek to help these victims be blessed in their efforts to free them from captivity and provide safe shelters for them. We confidently ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Intercession for Mass or during the Liturgy of the Hours

*For freedom for everyone
and for an end to human trafficking
of millions of children and adults
and for blessings on those who assist in their
release, we pray...*

--Sr. Antonine Manning, SND

Lisa Helene Donovan SND Coesfeld