**WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

**July, 30, 2019**

**Setting:** poster implicating force or child labour, newspaper headlines of such social concern, Marie Louise and Montfort, globe, key symbol.

**OPENIING SONG**: Living waters, flow on…. (Optional)

**INTRODUCTION:**

“Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity. The dignity of each human person and the pursuit of the common good are concerns which ought to shape all economic policies.” ***(Words of Pope Francis 11 April 2014)***

“I have always been distressed at the lot of those who are victims of various kinds of human trafficking. How I wish that all of us would hear God’s cry,’ Where is your brother? (Gen 4: 9) where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Let us not pretend and look the other way. There is greater complicity than we think, this issue involves everyone!” ***(Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, 24 Nov. 2013, 211.)***

**PNG’S FACT ON TRAFFICKING.**

The government of Papua New Guinea does not fully meet the minimum standard for the elimination of trafficking and is not making effort to do so. An acute lack of financial and human resources dedicated to trafficking as well as very low awareness among government officials, and the public hindered the progress. In 2017, the country did not identify any trafficking victims. **(*TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT, JUNE 2018.)***

**MEDITATION:**  **Jesus and Justice**

God’s justice, incarnated in Jesus, is a liberating, community creating Power!

Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God 

Blessed are you who hunger, for you shall be full.

Blessed are you who weep, for you shall laugh (***Luke 6:20-21; Matthew 5:3-12)***

***Story of Maria:***

Maria was only 22 when she responded to an advertisement with a job agency in Malaysia. She arrived in Sydney to start work as a domestic helper in a home. Her dreams of a job earning her enough money to help her family at home, turned into a nightmare. She was locked up in the home and sexually exploited over a long period.

Maria escaped and through the Australian Federal Police and ACRATH Maria was supported and guided. Now she has a family of two children with great successes in her life. She turned her life around which is her recovery journey.

***(acrath.org.au)***

**Story of Joseph**. (Gen 37: 23 - 24. 28.) When Joseph came up to his brothers they ripped off his clothes with full sleeves. Then they took him and threw him into the well, which was dry. And when some Midianite traders came by, the brothers pulled Joseph out of the well and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelite, who took him to Egypt.

**SILENT REFLECTION AND SHARING:**

* Have you ever experienced and witnessed the injustice of any form and unjust dealings that deform human dignity in your life? What were the causes of justice that you undertook to overcome and resolve that unjust dealings in relation to rehabilitating human lives and dignity?

**(FROM THE VIEW OF OUR FOUNDERS)**

The wisdom of the flesh is the love of pleasure. This is the wisdom shown by the worldly- wise who seek only the satisfaction of the senses. They want to have a good time. They shun anything that might prove unpleasant or mortifying for the body, such as fasting and other austerities. Usually they think of only eating, drinking, playing, laughing, enjoying life and having a good time. They must be always comfortable and insist on having entertaining pastimes, the best of food and good company. ***LEW: #81***

Marie Louise spent ten years in the hospital of Poitiers among the sick and the poor who, in those days, were unjustly treated. Montfort invited her to live with them if she wanted to become a religious. Witnessing the reality of the unjust world of her days, she needed to do something foolish and upright to bring about the uplifting of human dignity.

**PRAYER INTERCESSION:**

***Response*: Care and protect their dignity**

* For each of us that we recognise our duty to protect and defend the inviolable dignity of those who flee real dangers in search of asylum and security, and to prevent their being exploited. Particularly of women and children who find themselves in situations that expose them to risks and abuses**. R/**
* Welcoming means offering broader options for migrants and refugees to enter destination countries safely and legally. This calls to a concrete commitment to increase and simplify the process for granting humanitarian visas and for reuniting families. **R/**
* God of freedom, beauty and truth, we believe that your deepest desire, your most powerful energy, is that all creation might know abundant life. We raise our voices in anguished prayer for our sisters and brothers, women and girls, men and boys, who are modern day slaves; they may recover their beauty as your beloved daughters and sons. **R/**
* For religious men and women that God inspires them to continue their commitment to fight against evil actions in their respective areas. **R/**
* For the NGO’s that God inspire them to support and protect the needy sisters and brothers. **R/**
* For Human smugglers that God touch their mind and heart to realise their evil deeds and learn to respect the dignity of others. **R/**
* For survivors of Human Trafficking, May God fills them with His peace that they may gain their dignity as God’s children. **R/**
* For the Church leaders who are fighting against Human Trafficking may continue to voice out for them. **R/**

**PRAYER TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY:**

Loving God, we believe that each person is made in your image and likeness and that your desire is that each one will have life and have it in all its fullness.

We are filled with anger whenever we learn that the rights and dignity of others are violated by threats, deception or force.

Today we pray for an end to all forms of exploitation and human trafficking in PNG… (Name your country) and in the global community.

May all discrimination especially discrimination and violence against women and girls, be brought to an end.

May those stripped of their rights and trafficked into abusive work situations in fields, market, gardens, mines and factories be given the respect and support they deserve.

May our demand for cheap goods and services be so reduced that workers’ conditions and payments will reflect their dignity and their efforts.

May we have the courage to join Pope Francis and other religious and civic leaders to speak out against human trafficking and to take practical action in our own lives and communities to help eradicate it.

We make this prayer in Jesus’ name. AMEN.

[**www.acrath.org.au**](http://www.acrath.org.au)

**CLOSING SONG: (**Any song echoing justice and human exploitations)

Below are photos of children and persons who are experiencing some forms of abuses and injustice.

