



## ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

January 11, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Each year, Catholics throughout the world commemorate the World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking on the Feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita (February 8th). This initiative was introduced by Pope Francis in 2015 to raise awareness about the global scourge of human trafficking, which is a mortal sin.

On January 11th, the Office for Life and Family in partnership with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, American Association will launch an Anti-Human Trafficking Winter Awareness Program entitled: “The Samaritans Choice - An Act of Love.” The program will formally conclude on the World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking on February 8th.

This educational program is designed to stem the tide of human trafficking in our local community by teaching individuals how to identify the signs, how to report it, and how to support survivors. More information on this program will be forthcoming from the Archdiocesan Office for Life and Family. Please visit <https://phillycatholiclife.org/> for additional details.

I encourage you to participate in the “The Samaritans Choice - An Act of Love” program as well as the World Day of Prayer and Reflection Against Human Trafficking on February 8th. Every human being is made in the image of God and loved infinitely by his or her Creator. Please join me in praying for those who have been victimized by this assault on the dignity of human life.

May God abundantly bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia