Second International Weekend of Prayer and Fasting

The Salvation Army and the Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking invite Christians to join them on September 28 – 30, 2007 in organizing workplace and church events to focus prayer and intercession on behalf of people who are trafficked, enslaved and exploited in labor trafficking and in the commercial sex industry. Together let us petition God to change hearts, to free captives, to give us the strength to end these evils.

This event allows us to bring special attention to the darkness of trafficking, and through the power of concerted prayer to call on God’s power to send light, mercy, and love to rescue and restore those treated so unjustly.

If you haven’t already done so, please register your participation by calling: 703.647.4780 or go to the Salvation Army website. (See pg. 8)

You will find a wide range of resources available on the website, such as flyers (English, Spanish, Russian, French, and Korean), prayer guides (English, Spanish, & Russian), Bible studies, sample sermons, and instructions for an intercessory prayer walk. Print and post the resource flyer in your office and church.

For a parish bulletin insert from Stop Trafficking, contact: stoptraffick@aol.com

September 28th - 30th will be a teachable moment, as well as a way to collaborate with others in making a difference on behalf of the millions who are trafficked globally.

“Let us also remember that too many people in our midst—and millions around the world—still lack decent work or fair wages, toil in terrible conditions, and have no real voice in their economic life. John Paul II reminded us that, ‘human work is a key, probably the essential key, to the whole social question.’ Catholic tradition has defended the right of workers to join together to secure decent work, wages, and a voice in economic life.

Labor Day 2007 is a time to recommit in our own small ways – to our own work, to treat others justly, and to defend the lives, dignity, and rights of workers, especially the most vulnerable. This is a requirement of our faith and a way to advance the promise of our nation.”

Forced Labor in California

In July 2005, the Economic and Employment Enforcement Coalition (EEEC) was formed to enforce California labor laws and to educate business owners and workers. EEEC investigators conduct enforcement sweeps in industries that have been identified as having a high degree of violations and lack of regulatory compliance. Following are the results of the EEEC’s enforcement sweeps conducted on those industries most impacted by forced labor from January 2007 to the present:

**Restaurant Industry:**
- Number of inspections: 97
- Number of citations issued: 79
- Total citation amount: $813,400

**Agricultural Industry:**
- Number of inspections: 93
- Number of citations issued: 30
- Total citation amount: $228,250

**Garment Industry:**
- Number of inspections: 61
- Number of confiscations: 11
- Number of citations issued: 72
- Total citation amount: $1,352,950

**Car Wash Industry:**
- Number of inspections: 82
- Number of citations issued: 112
- Number of unregistered car washers: 16
- Total citation amount: $1,012,250

**Construction Industry:**
- Number of inspections: 72
- Number of citations issued: 47
- Total citation amount: $309,200

According to the Human Rights Center, domestic service has the second highest occurrence of forced labor in the U.S. due to the demand for cheap household help and because monitoring working conditions is difficult.

The following case examples illustrate forced labor in California:

- Oct. 2006 – Irvine, CA: An Egyptian couple was sentenced to three years in federal prison for obtaining labor through unlawful force or coercion, holding a person for involuntary servitude through force or coercion, harboring an illegal immigrant, and conspiracy. The Egyptian couple forced the girl to work inside their house, care for their five children with little or no pay, and threatened her with bodily harm. In addition, they required the victim to sleep on a dirty fold-up mattress in a 12-by-8 foot converted room without heat or ventilation.
- Dec. 2006 – Los Angeles, CA: The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Trans Bay Steel, Inc. settled a case in which Trans Bay Steel, Inc. was ordered to pay an estimated $1 million in monetary relief and compensation for 48 welders of Thai decent who were exploited, held against their will, had their passports confiscated, had their movement restricted, and were forced to work without pay in restaurants and other menial jobs in southern California.
- July 2007 – San Diego, CA: Four suspects were indicted and charged with conspiracy to bring in and harbor illegal aliens for financial gain, forced labor, attempted forced labor and aiding and abetting. **Sgt. John Vanek, San Jose, CA Police Dept. Vice Unit, Human Trafficking Task Force Program Manager.**

3 Face Slavery Charges Involving Chinese Acrobats in Las Vegas

Three men are being held in Las Vegas on slavery charges, accused of detaining members of a Chinese acrobat team against their will. The arrests of You Zhi Li, 38, Yang Shen, 21, and Jun Hu, 43, in July 2007 came after one woman who worked as an interpreter for China Star Acrobats escaped in June and contacted authorities, the FBI said. The woman told police she and 20 other teammates were, in effect, slaves being held against their will in a southwest Las Vegas home. Other members of the troupe then told authorities that they were fed little, paid next to nothing, and their lives were completely controlled by three Chinese men.

“China Star Acrobats has been using these children and young adults for its own benefit,” said Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Bork. Representatives of Child Protective Services and the Clark County Department of Family Services conducted a health and welfare check at the home, where they interviewed 14 residents, including five juveniles ages 14 to 17. Victims said Li promised them $300 to $1,600 a month to perform with the China Star Acrobats, a team that traveled and performed at schools across the country.

“It’s a cultural program,” said the defense attorney. “Chinese folks get to come over here and learn about America.” But the acrobats, prosecutors said, were forced to stay in Li’s home, where up to six lived in each bedroom. Most had been brought to Las Vegas months ago. They told authorities that they were fed minimal amounts of instant noodles, rice and vegetables twice a day. They said they sometimes had to perform twice a day, were awakened early and didn’t get to go to sleep until very late.

According to the complaint, Li con-
Career Foreign Service Officer Named to Head Church Migration Office

A former ambassador to countries in Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East was named director of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Johnny Young, a career foreign service officer with the U.S. State Department who most recently was ambassador to Slovenia from 2001 to 2004, will replace Mark Franken, who retired from the USCCB in June after a career of working with Catholic refugee and immigrant agencies.

Young’s appointment was announced August 2nd by Msgr. David Malloy, general secretary of the USCCB. “Because of his work in Africa, especially with refugees in Sierra Leone, and in Slovenia, where he worked against the scourge of human trafficking, Johnny Young has profound knowledge of the depths of these problems,” said Msgr. Malloy.

Young, a native of Savannah, Ga., grew up in Philadelphia and graduated from Temple University before joining the State Department’s foreign service in 1967 as a budget and fiscal officer in Madagascar.

Since then, he has held posts in Guinea, Kenya, Qatar and Barbados, before returning to work in the agency’s Washington office in 1979. He later served in Jordan and the Netherlands before being named ambassador to Sierra Leone, where he helped oversee the evacuation of U.S. citizens following a 1992 coup. Young headed embassies in Togo (1994-97) and in Bahrain (1997-2001).

Msgr. Malloy also said Young’s experience with various government agencies gives him “a breadth of perspective and exceptional management skills” that make him suited to the work of MRS, the leading refugee resettlement agency in the country. MRS has settled more than 800,000 refugees since 1975 through a network of diocesan offices.

Acrobats cont. pg. 2

Acrobats.cont. pg. 2 fiscated visas and passports and told them their phone calls to home would be monitored. One teen told authorities he feared for the safety of his family in China, and that he had witnessed Hu beat another performer during a personal dispute.

One girl, who performed as a contortionist, told authorities that she was being paid $50 a month but was instructed to tell detectives she earned $1,600 a month. A boy said he had been traveling with the troupe for two years, receiving $100 per month instead of the $400 per month he was promised.

“Li stated that he made agreements with the managers of the performers in China, whereas, he would send the managers $800 a month for each performer,” the complaint said. “Li stated he does not pay the performers a salary but gives them between $50 and $100 per month to live on.”

When the acrobats were not performing, they were forced to do chores for another Chinese man, who was identified as ‘Benny.’ The acrobats cleaned or renovated homes and did lawn work.

Bork said Li owns a $320,000 home, has paid off a $170,000 home and has $110,000 in his business bank account. In addition, Li has $30,000 in his personal bank account and owns four vans worth approximately $25,000 apiece.

The acrobats were overjoyed at being liberated. “They literally hugged the investigators when they arrived,” FBI spokesman David Staretz said. The acrobats were being provided shelter, food and medical attention, said Terri Miller, director of the Anti-Trafficking League Against Slavery, known as the ATLAS task force. The task force, formed last year to combat human trafficking in the Las Vegas Valley, includes the FBI, federal immigration officials, the Salvation Army, Safe House, the Rape Crisis Center, the Boyd Law School at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and other organizations. (July 5, 2007, http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,288163,00.html)
Nigerian Shelter Opens for Repatriated Victims of Trafficking

For the Nigeria Conference of Women Religious (NCWR) and its Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Women (COSUDOW), collaborators, friends and well-wishers in the fight against women trafficking for prostitution in Europe, it was a day of great jubilation and dancing as the Shelter, otherwise called the Women’s Resource Center — a transitional home for the victims of human trafficking — was commissioned in Benin on July 11, 2007.

The dream for this shelter began in 1999. Through the help of many agencies in Africa and Europe, including guidance from the Union of Major Superiors of Italy and the Dutch Foundation of Religious against Trafficking of Women in the Netherlands, the dream is now a reality.

Construction of the Center was made possible by the coordinated work of:
• Caritas Italy — purchase of the land;
• Catholic Bishops Conference of Italy — construction from foundation to completion (providing fans, air conditioners, water, a generating set for electricity, fencing etc);
• Missio Achen, Germany and SRTV, the Netherlands — partial furnishing of the house.

But for COSUDOW, the work has just begun. The real challenge lies in the rehabilitation and integration of the returnees, all of whom have been exploited and carry within them a deep sense of hurt and emotional and psychological trauma. They rely on the COSUDOW for their medical treatments, food, clothing and shelter, counseling, economic integration and after-care.

COSUDOW, lacking the resources for all these services, will continue to solicit financial, moral and spiritual support from the various levels of government, churches, corporate bodies and individuals.

To help, contact: Sister Florence Nwaonuma, SSH, Project Coordinator of COSUDOW, at: cosudow99@yahoo.com

The Economic/Social Context of Human Trafficking


Sigma Huda Sentenced to Prison

On 27 August 2007, the Special Anti-Corruption Court of Bangladesh sentenced Sigma Huda (lawyer and since 2004 the UN’s Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children) to three years imprisonment for aiding and abetting extortion, allegedly committed by her husband, who received seven years.

In September 2006 Huda had presented a report to the UN Commission on Human Rights that included a thematic study on the relationship between trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation.

In January 2007 she had presented her 2006 thematic report on forced marriage in the context of trafficking in persons. (See pg. 8)

Huda is gravely ill with high blood pressure and diabetes and has received no medical attention throughout her detention, trial and imprisonment.

Huda’s lawyers assert that she was targeted for speaking out against Bangladesh’s military-backed government.

The military assumed power in January 2007, following violent clashes over electoral reforms that left more than 30 people dead. Huda has been outspoken about corruption in the police service and has campaigned on behalf of women and the homeless, her lawyer said.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Leandro Despouy, expressed his concern over the proceedings of the trial of Huda. Despouy received information indicating that the right to legal representation and the independence of the court were severely affected during her trial.

According to these reports, defense lawyers felt pressured. They had no opportunity to visit her in prison and could only meet with her at the end of the hearings. They also had difficult-
‘Church Women United’ Continue Work Against Human Trafficking

The Trafficking and Child Abuse Action Team, part of the Action/Global Concerns Committee of Church Women United (CWU), have worked since 2004 on study and action regarding “Abuse of Immigrant Women and Children” and “Sexual Abuse of Children.” They studied trafficking in developing countries, followed by an analysis of the trafficking of children • in developing countries, • internationally (including Europe) and • that of U.S. trafficked youth.

A U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services report estimated that 250,000-300,000 U.S. youth are at risk of trafficking and sexual exploitation in the U.S. These young people are run-away, thrown-away children. Many are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse in their homes.

Church Women United also:
1) Lobbied Congress to ratify the UN Treaty: The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The U.S. and Somalia are the only two countries that have not yet ratified the CRC.
2) Worked on legislation on both federal and state levels to stop the trafficking and commercial sexual abuse of children. CWU encouraged its members in each State to pressure their legislators to enact legislation that would train law enforcement agencies to help U.S. citizens escape trafficking and sexual exploitation. ‘Help for U.S. Trafficked and Sexual Exploitation Youth’ continues to be a CWU focus for 2007.
3) Worked on legislation to create fair labor practices whereby we, U.S. citizens, would pay a fair price for all imported goods.

The CWU circulated the National Labor Committee (NLC) campaign petition requesting Wal-Mart to pay 20 cents per garment more for its workers in Bangladesh. Workers get paid 17 cents per garment for which we pay $11 plus dollars. To find out more about the anti-sweatshop legislation and work, e-mail the NLC at: nlc@nlcnet.org.

CWU supported Sen. Byron Dorgan’s (D-ND) and Rep. Sherrod Brown’s (OH-13) bill, “The Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act”. This was the first time in twenty years that anti-sweatshop legislation had been introduced in Congress. Meant to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 so as to prohibit the import, export, and sale of goods made with sweatshop labor, the bill (numbered S.B. 367 in the 2007 Congress) is currently in the Senate Finance Committee.

Corporate Stance

Congregations and collaborators that have taken a corporate stance against human trafficking include:
- Congregation of Notre Dame
- Congregation of St. Agnes, Fond du Lac, WI
- Dominicans of Mission San Jose, CA
- Dominicans of Oxford, MI
- Dominicans of San Rafael, CA
- Dominicans of Sparkhill, NY
- Dominicans of Springfield, IL
- Dominican Sisters and Associates of St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, OH
- Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY
- International Congregation of Notre Dame
- Loretto Justice and Peace Network
- Loretto Women’s Network
- Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Stella Maris Prov. NY)
- Religious of the Good Shepherd
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary
- Sisters of the Divine Savior
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul
- Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate
- Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles Prov.
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambory, CT
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, KS
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA
- Society of the Divine Savior USA (Salvatorian Priests and Brothers)

If your congregation/organization is not listed, please notify Stop Trafficking.
Corporate Commitment to Save Victims

Rosemary Surwilo OSF wrote, “After three years of study and preparation our members and associates ritualized their commitment to a public and corporate stance against human trafficking. During the ceremony participants exchanged teal-colored wristbands with the words STOP TRAFFICKING on them. As each one put a wristband on a partner’s wrist she imagined herself the perpetrator. As each one received a wristband she imagined herself a victim.” The local newspaper published Rosemary’s article (see col. 3) on this event and other events the OSFs sponsored.

“We are happy to join the many other congregations who have already taken a corporate stance. We are committed to drawing many others into this work against trafficking.” (Wristbands can be obtained from www.reminderband.com).

Statement of Corporate Stance

Sisters and Associates of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate
Joliet, Illinois, July 29, 2007

“Motivated by our Franciscan reverence for all life, we Sisters and Associates of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate of Joliet, Illinois, denounce the practice of human trafficking and commit to the work of bringing about the elimination of this evil practice. We invite all who are drawn to this cause to join with us by continuing to learn and to raise awareness among family, friends and co-workers.”

Training Seminar in San Jose, CA

On November 14, 2007 the San Jose, CA Police Department Human Trafficking Task Force will present another ‘Train the Trainers’ Seminar. The event is funded by a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Justice and supported in part by the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking.

The Seminar is appropriate for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim advocates, or anyone who may be involved in human trafficking investigations or assisting human trafficking victims. The course structure will be of value to those who are new to human trafficking, will focus on the knowledge and skills needed to assist in human trafficking cases, and will prepare attendees to train others in responding to human trafficking.

Registration information will be e-mailed during the first week of October. Individual registration will not be accepted before then. For more information, contact: Sgt. John Vanek, Human Trafficking Task Force Program Manager, San Jose Police Department Vice Unit at: 408-277-4322.

Excerpts from the Newspaper Feature

“Wristbands in all colors call attention to breast cancer, war, poverty, or organ donation. You may be seeing some folks sporting teal wristbands that say: “STOP TRAFFICKING.” Why?

Because on July 29th the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate (the Joliet Franciscans) and their Associates declared a corporate stance against human trafficking with a ritual in which they all received these wristbands. Then, on July 31st persons involved in law enforcement and human services were invited to a training session on human trafficking and I shared these bracelets with the participants. (The Office of the County State’s Attorney, James Glasgow, the Twelfth Judicial District Family Violence Coordinating Council, Social Work P.R.N., ‘Take Back the Night’ Committee and the Tri-River Police Training Region sponsored the session.)

Even though human trafficking has begun to make its way into the media in recent months, it is still a relatively hidden reality in our world. Human trafficking or as some call it, modern day slavery, ... is happening in our midst globally, nationally and locally! Sweatshops, brothels, private homes, motels and hotels, restaurants, farm fields, as well as construction sites may be places where women, men and children are exploited. Traffickers worldwide prey on vulnerable persons....

With false promises of good jobs and security they ... transport (victims) into various types of human bondage. ...U.S. young people who are run-a-ways are taken advantage of by ruthless traffickers and placed in bondage where fear tactics and torture keep them from contacting their families.

What can we do? As citizens, we have a duty to educate ourselves and then call our legislators, law enforcement people and those who work in human services to the eradication of this tragic disregard for human dignity. We may have to assist with our ‘time, talents and treasure.’ I hope we’re ready for the challenge....”

Sr. Rose Marie Surwilo, OSF, Joliet, IL
New Book: Trafficking in Nevada

“No one really enjoys getting sold,” a woman in a legal Nevada brothel told Melissa Farley during the course of this research. “It’s like you sign a contract to be raped.”

After a 2-year research study of Nevada legal and illegal prostitution and sex trafficking, Melissa Farley Ph.D. in her latest book, *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections*, reveals new information about the scope of the sexual exploitation. She describes human rights violations against women in the Nevada legal brothels and how the multibillion-dollar illegal sex industry in Las Vegas works. She makes connections between legal and illegal prostitution, prostitution and sex trafficking, advertising for prostitution, political corruption, pornography, and organized crime. Farley explains how, although they are out of sight, the johns are ultimately the origin of the problem of sex trafficking – the men who demand the right to rent human beings in prostitution.

What effect does Nevada’s prostitution culture have on all women in the state? A Nevada rape crisis counselor explained, “Men think they can get away with rape here.”

To Order:
The book will be available for online order in September 2007. To be notified of the publication date and order details, send an email to: nevadabook@prostitutionresearch.com

All proceeds from sales of the book go to two nonprofit organizations:
- *Prostitution Research & Education*
- *Nevada Coalition against Sex Trafficking*

“Finally, here’s a book about sex slavery not just in distant lands but in Nevada, USA. Dr. Melissa Farley looks at sex slavery in Nevada’s legal and illegal prostitution sectors and discovers there’s not much difference between the two. Farley meticulously researches and reports on the women victims—it’s not a pretty picture—and issues a moving call for help. If you’ve wanted to know what really goes on in the sex industry in Las Vegas and nearby Nevada counties, this is an unpleasant but must read.” John Miller, Research Prof. of International Affairs, Elliott School, George Washington Univ. and Former Dir. of the Office to Monitor & Combat Trafficking

“This book, beyond a reasonable doubt, presents factual information of what prostitution is truly about in the state of Nevada. It debunks the mis-education and advertised myths about legal and illegal prostitution, including the glamorization and glorification of the pimp and prostitute sub-culture. I investigated child and adult prostitution cases for 23 years of my 26-year career as an FBI Agent. My last 20 years were in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is clear to me that Melissa Farley has presented what all citizens need to know about prostitution, and that is ...’to seek the Truth and see the total picture.’” Roger Young, Special Agent, FBI, Retired, Reno Nevada

‘Live, Learn, Thrive’ Grants

Pat Zarega, Director of the Corporate Social Responsibility Program Unit for Church in Society, discussed the issue of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) with Procter and Gamble Inc. Consequently they have opened up their ‘Live – Learn – Thrive’ grants to efforts to counter CSE. P&G has a focus on direct service, so applications should focus on programs geared directly to children. You may send questions to Patricia Zarega (Patricia.Zerega@elca.org) or let her know of grant proposals, to verify that they respond to this effort. P&G has funded two such programs to date, one of which is Rugmark, aiding children caught in the rug weaving industries of Asia.

Grant guidelines are found at: http://www.pg.com/company/our_commitment/grant_application_guidelines.jhtml

The current round has a September 30th cut off date.
The contact person for questions is Brian Sasson: sasson.bj@pg.com
New Film: Human Trafficking

On Aug. 29th the National Council for Jewish Women and actor/filmmaker/activist, Michael Cory Davis, presented a new film, Cargo: Innocence Lost, in Los Angeles followed by a panel discussion of experts. A compelling documentary, Cargo: Innocence Lost unveils the dark underworld of sex trafficking through hard-hitting interviews with some of the country’s top officials and experts on the subject, victims’ advocates and victims themselves who were rescued in Texas. Cargo: Innocence Lost explores how the business of sex trafficking has become a $9 billion dollar a year industry and why it still remains a shrouded crime in our nation.

In 2003 Davis became the Goodwill Ambassador for Face-to-Face Bulgaria, having written, directed and produced the 2005 Hollywood Film Festival winner for Best Short, Svetlana’s Journey. This film is based on a true story about a Bulgarian girl forced into prostitution. Davis lived in and toured the country, meeting countless victims and potential victims, using Svetlana’s Journey as the tool to educate them. In 2005, the film aired on Bulgaria’s national television station.

Cargo: Innocence Lost and Svetlana’s Journey have been used by dozens of organizations and institutions to educate, enlighten, and motivate people to take action and get involved in the fight against sex trafficking. Law enforcement and government agencies are using the films as training tools.

New Book: Human Trafficking

Edited by Maggy Lee (Univ. of Essex) Human Trafficking provides a critical engagement with the key debates on human trade. It addresses the subject within the broader context of global crime and the internationalization of crime control. The book takes a broadly discursive approach and draws on historical, comparative as well as the latest empirical material to illustrate and inform the discussion of the major trends in human trafficking from the perspective of England.

The book helps to develop fresh theoretical insights into globalization, exclusion and governance, and identifies a new research agenda that will ensure the book is of interest to advanced level students as well as academic scholars.

To order, go to: http://www.willanpublishing.co.uk/cgi-bin/indexer?product=9781843922414

Human Trafficking

Huda cont. from pg. 4

ties accessing the case files and other relevant information, thus compromising their ability to ensure an adequate defense. The atmosphere during the trial was reportedly intimidating, with military and police presence both outside and inside the courtroom, and access of the public and the media to the courtroom was considerably restricted. Despouy expressed concern over these alleged irregularities, which would amount to a violation of article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Bangladesh. Against this background, he called upon the Bangladesh authorities to ensure the right of Ms. Sigma Huda to a fair and public trial during any ensuing appeal process.

Stop Trafficking!

is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of Stop Trafficking!


To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please use this e-mail address: jeansds2000@yahoo.com

Editing and Layout: Jean Schafer, SDS