



# Social Justice Evening Prayer

(Human Trafficking)

## Opening Reflection:

There are over **30 million victims** of human trafficking and modern day slavery in the world today.

Each year it is estimated that there are **1 million new victims** of human trafficking.

An estimated **80%** of those in slavery are **female** and over **50%** in are **children**.

Human Trafficking generates approximately **\$9.5 billion** each year. It is second only to drug trafficking in international crime.

"...Experts say that at any given time, some **2.5 million people** are being trafficked..."

How can **WE** help?

## Opening Hymn: The Cry of the Poor

**Ref:** *The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.*

I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor. **Ref.**

Let the lowly hear and be glad; the Lord listens to their pleas; and to hearts broken, God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor. **Ref.**

Every spirit crushed, God will save; will be ransom for their lives; will be safe shelter for their fears, and will hear the cry of the poor. **Ref.**

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**Ant 1:** The Sisters see none other than the Lord in the suffering, be they repulsive or agreeable, whether their nature be pained or flattered - they will serve or instruct them with equal love, friendliness and serene modesty, respect, exactitude, diligence and quiet ease.

*(PvM Constitutions 1849)*

## Psalm 9

(Despair and Hope in a Dark Time)

We stare dumbly at the death camps of hell: Lo! Dark Evil is crowned in the midst of the tortured and dying. The needy are forgotten, the oppressed know not the stronghold of God.

The hope of the weary grows dim; the heavens are empty; no ear hears the moan of those stricken down beneath a pitiless sky.

O God, don't you hear the hard-pressed cries? Have you forgotten? When will you listen? How long must we endure, how long?

But I will not give in to despair, for you came to your people of old, in desert and exile, betrayal and death, giving joy and great hope, the light of your Presence in the least expected of places.

**Glory to the Father...**

**Antiphon repeated**

**STOP THE TRAFFIK**  
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



**Ant 2:** "Likewise, for those of us who are in position to do something to combat human slavery, however small our contribution, neutrality is a sin."  
---Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz, Department of Defense

**Psalm 13**  
(The Pain of the Heart)

How long, O God, how long? My being is in anguish and torment, my heart is grieved day and night. How long, O God, how long? Icy death, dread and despair, insidious foes, they strengthen their grip.

Dull are my eyes and lifeless, as I stare at the desolate places. Give light to my eyes; stir up my will and my passion, my trust in your life-giving Spirit.

Fill my heart with compassion and strength, that I may rejoice in your generous love, able to strive with my foes, no longer dead in the depths of my being.

Yes, at the moment of emptiness and dread you surprise me with joy and deliverance. I will sing and shout with delight, for you have overwhelmed me with grace.

**Glory to the Father...**

**Antiphon repeated**

**Ant 3:** The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offence against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights.

-- *JOHN PAUL II*

**Psalm 28**  
(The Silence and the Voice)

Dear God, are you the Friend I can trust? You seem so deaf to my prayer, to the urgent sound of my voice. Do you not hear, do you turn away silent, when I cry out for help? I lift up my hands in the holy place, but still I hear no answer.

Let me pause and remember the holy ground of your presence-the bush burning with light at the moment of despair. You are here in the ones I ignore: the shuffling old man in the street, the hollow-eyed woman unkempt, the person I pass hurriedly by.

Open our eyes that we may see, unblock our ears that we may hear. Send us the fury of the desert wind, or the gentle breeze through the trees. Save your people, bless your heritage, be our shepherd and guard us. Protect us and bear with us, both now and forever.

### **Glory to the Father...**

#### **Antiphon repeated**



#### **Reading: Matthew 25: 42-43**

For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me... The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.

#### **Responsory:        Brief period of silence.**

#### **Canticle Antiphon:**

Human rights are to be defended not only individually but also as a whole: protecting them only partially would imply a kind of failure to recognize them.

---Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church

#### **Canticle: Recited**

My soul proclaims your greatness, O my God, and my spirit has rejoiced in you, my Savior.

For your regard has blessed me, poor, and a serving woman.

From this day all generations will call me blessed, for You who are mighty, have made me great. Most Holy be your Name.

Your mercy is on those who fear You throughout all generations.

You have shown strength with your arm; You have scattered the proud in their hearts' fantasy.

You have put down the mighty from their seat, and have lifted up the powerless.

You have filled the hungry with good things, and have sent the rich away empty.

You, remembering your mercy, have helped your people Israel,

As you promised Abraham and Sarah; mercy to their children, forever.

### **Glory to the Father...**

## **Antiphon repeated**

**Intercessions:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For an end to the violence and poverty that displaces so many people from their homes and homelands, we pray to the Lord.

For migrant workers, that they may labor and live in safe and just conditions, we pray to the Lord.

For the families and children of migrant workers, that they be reunited, we pray to the Lord.

For an end to human trafficking, that the dignity of all God's children will be acknowledged and protected, we pray to the Lord.

For our law-makers, that they establish and enforce laws that protect the rights and dignity of everyone, especially those most vulnerable in our country, we pray to the Lord.

For employers and corporations, that they choose the dignity and worth of each human person over profit and power, we pray to the Lord.

For all Sisters of Christian Charity throughout the world, that we will continue to serve all people with love and compassion especially those who are suffering, we pray to the Lord.

**Our Father:** Recited

### **Prayer:**

O God, you give peace and desire justice for all people, hear our prayers for the enslaved members of our global human family, our sisters and brothers, our children and young men and women, held in slavery, brutalized and traumatized by the horror of human trafficking. Hear our anguished cry for them, see our hidden tears for them, as we pray together to you, at this moment, in their name.

### **Prayer Together**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

