St. Josephine Bakhita (c. 1869–1947)

Patron Saint of Victims of Human Trafficking

Kidnapped as a child in Sudan, Josephine Bakhita was sold into slavery and endured years of violence and cruelty. She once said she could not even remember her given name — her captors called her "Bakhita," meaning "the fortunate one."

Her life changed when she was brought to Italy, where she encountered Christ and learned a truth that transformed everything: she was loved, free, and claimed by God.

After being legally freed, Josephine chose to become a Canossian Sister. She lived the rest of her life in humility, joy, and radical forgiveness — even forgiving those who enslaved her.

St. Josephine Bakhita reminds us that no suffering is invisible to God, and that true freedom is found in knowing we are His beloved children.

St. Josephine Bakhita, pray for us.

Feast Day: February 8