



Scripture

Old Testament: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" Isaiah 58: 6 from The Poverty And Justice Bible: Catholic Edition.

New Testament: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation." 2 Corinthians 5:17 from The Poverty And Justice Bible: Catholic Edition.

Catechism

"The more a person knows about the good and practises the good, the more he moves away from the slavery of sin." YOUCAT #288

Comment

Shocking figures of the number of people who are trafficked and forced into servitude provide a stark reminder that slavery is not a phenomenon consigned to history textbooks and museum exhibitions. Slavery is a crime that is being committed in plain sight.

Organisation of the month

Anti Slavery International is the UK's oldest charitable organisation still in existence and remaining true to its founding objective, viz. to challenge structures and practices that lead to people being enslaved. Visit www.antislavery.org for more information.

Pray, Think, Act

Pray: that God the Father, through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ may, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Mary Help of Christians, equip you with the strength to stand up and be counted, to be a voice for the voiceless and a light in the darkness for the upright (cf. Psalm 111 (112))

Think: about the next time you use a car wash or nail bar. Do the employees look poorly dressed, hungry, in need of a shower? Consider downloading the Clewer application to your mobile phone to help report slavery in car washes: The Clewer Initiative | Safe Car Wash App. In addition, if you suspect modern slavery, report it to the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700 or the police on 101. In an emergency always call 999.

Act: Visit www.antislavery.org to find out ways that you can help, including how to make a donation.

*"Do as much as you can. God will do what we ourselves cannot do."
St John Bosco, Letter to Cagliero, November 13, 1875*