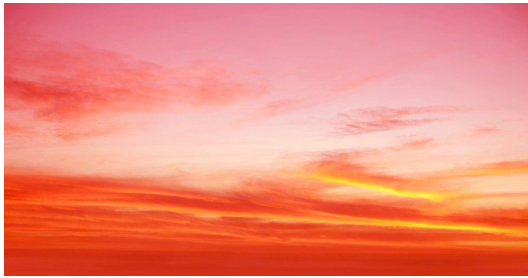




PENTECOST NOVENA

to end human trafficking

**A Collaboration Between
the Sisters of Notre Dame
de Namur and Coesfeld
Congregations**



PENTECOST NOVENA

TRAFFICKING IN BRAZIL

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts and minds of the faithful to work for the liberty and dignity of all persons.

We count on your help for the courage of Pentecost in our day. Trafficking is a tough and dangerous nut to crack.

What are we talking about? The buying and selling of human beings for sexual exploitation is a modern form of slavery, the most common and most lucrative form of slavery in our day. After the sale of weapons and drugs, the third source of profit is the sale of women and children. We are talking big money and precious lives.



In 2007, the international trafficking movement totaled nothing less than 152 billion dollars. For one year, clear profit was 91 billion dollars. Brasil is the major exporter of Latin American women destined to be sold for sex. There are prices set for the bodies of women, depending on age, race, culture, beauty. In this commerce called trafficking the person is deprived of human rights.



One's very life is in danger; one loses dignity, security, and the right to travel freely. The victims are mostly poor and deceived by false promises. Some are forced by torture, humiliation, use of drugs, or rape. The objective is to create victims who are both submissive and attractive for the consumers of sexual slavery.

How does it happen that nearly 4 million people are bought and sold in the world commerce of sexual exploitation each year?

Meet Gabriela, a 22 year old young woman who always dreamed of living abroad. One day when she was walking in the shopping center, a woman called her over to talk with her. She told Gabriela that she was attractive and offered her a job as a model in a cosmetic corporation in Madrid, Spain. Gabriela was thrilled! She saw this as an opportunity to get a job to help her poor family, to be famous, and to make her dream of living abroad come true!

After much reflection and conversation with her mother, Gabriela decided to approach the agency which the woman had suggested. There she met the woman who had made the proposal and was welcomed by a team of employees of the firm. They talked and when they found out that Gabriela had accepted the proposal, they took care of the details for her travel: passport, employer statement, contract, money. In addition to this, the woman said that when Gabriela arrived at the airport in Madrid, there would be a person waiting to bring her to the Modeling Agency which had contracted her.

When she arrived in Madrid, she was received by a woman who took her passport, and brought her to what she thought was to be the modeling agency, but it appeared more like a place for entertainment performances.

In fact, it was a house of prostitution where there were many other women. Gabriela could not believe that this was happening to her and even tried to explain that she did not do this type of service. The nice woman who had met her at the airport would not listen to anything that Gabriela said. It was then that Gabriela perceived that she had been deceived. This was indeed not a Modeling Agency, but rather a well organized house of prostitution.

How does it happen? Oh, so subtly. All over Brasil, there are Gabrielas whose dreams rapidly turn to nightmares and they who thought they were choosing life, find themselves trapped into a system where they are dying a little each day.

What are we doing about this?

The National Conference of Religious (CRB) has small groups all over the country which make up a national network called **Grito Pela Vida. (A cry for life)** These groups try to work together to build an international network of response to the challenge of trafficking. Educational material has been prepared to communicate the extent of trafficking. There is a booklet of bible reflections about trafficking which is shared with the communities in both the urban and rural areas. Groups visit schools to share with young women and men the consequences of trafficking. Some sisters work to have safe places for those who try to break out of the system. Others work together to provide legal assistance. Some are prepared to give psychological assistance to those suffering from trauma. There is need to document the extent of trafficking because data is so difficult to get, and so necessary to have. Radio time also makes possible far reaching communication about trafficking.

So, this Pentecost we pray:

“Spirit who helps us in our weakness,” inspire and strengthen us to respond with confidence, to listen to the cries of the poor. Let our awareness lead us to new and courageous forms of proclaiming the goodness of God in trafficked places. We ask this in your Name. Amen

Betsy Flynn SND de Namur



PENTECOST NOVENA

The Plight of Girls in Eastern Europe

Tatiana traveled with a few other girls. On their arrival in Turkey they were forced into prostitution at a hotel. A week later, in the hotel a police raid was carried out and the girls were deported. When Tatiana arrived at the airport, the duty police officer took her passport and gave it to the man who had recruited her in the first place.

It later turned out that the recruiter was her brother. She was beaten a long time until the girls agreed to travel back to Turkey to work off their debts. There they were caught again by the police.

This time she was put on a ship with 24 other girls and taken to Odessa in Ukraine. When the ship arrived in Odessa there were already recruiters to whisk them away. The recruiters sent them to Cairo; from there the girls were sold to Israel and Libya. By that time, her "debt" had grown from 800 to 3,500 dollars. In Israel when she refused to work, she was locked up inside a slaughterhouse in the forest without water and food for 3 days. In Israel, the police found and deported her.

Arriving at the airport in Moldova, the same police officer locked her in an apartment where he told her that she should think about what would happen if she ran away again. Another girl in the apartment told her that her younger sister was kidnapped. She would now have to pay \$10,000 to get her back. Some days later Tatiana was sent to Cyprus. There, she told the police that she had lost her passport and she was deported to Moldova. This time the recruiter told her that he would send her to a "civilized" European country where she could easily pay off her debts and come back soon.

With a tourist visa, she traveled through Hungary and Croatia . In Germany and Switzerland with the help of an Albanian suitor Tatiana managed to escape. She went to the police and told the whole story.

Without her consent, the authorities contacted the Moldovan government, who in turn informed the police in her hometown. They contacted her parents saying their daughter was a "desperate prostitute." Her parents were devastated. When Tatiana called them from Switzerland they would not talk to her. In early 2003 she returned again to Moldava.

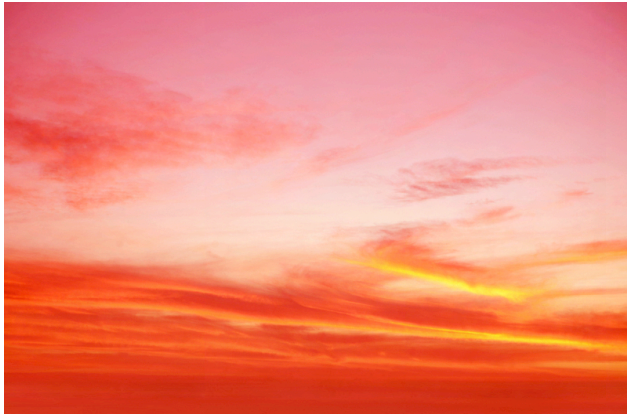
ACTION: Ask one other person to accompany us in prayer for these girls in Eastern Europe.

PRAYER

God, you are a gracious God and you care so much for your people. Today we ask you to look after all the women and girls who find themselves in these intolerable and oppressive situations of sexual slavery. Preserve that sacred place in women and girls so they can grow and heal when they obtain freedom and dignity! Guard this undestroyed place and help to open all of us to the needs in the hearts of the injured in countries over the world!

We pray for all who are caught in the web of crime either as perpetrators or victims or as silent bystanders. Show us ways to overturn every situation of negative force in our lives and make us advocates for freedom and dignity for all!

Petra Maria Tollkötter, SND Coesfeld



PENTECOST NOVENA



DOMESTIC SERVITUDE IN THE UNITED STATES --MODERN DAY SLAVERY

The second highest number of human trafficking victims in the United States is domestic servants. They are the slaves “next door” or the ones we see at the park watching children or standing beside us in the grocery line. She may be a weeping woman sitting on a front step! She is a prisoner, cheaply acquired and maintained, kept hidden, abused and at the mercy of her keepers

The story of Ruth from the book, *The Slave Next Door* by Kevin Bales

Ruth is from West Africa and arrived in Washington, DC at the age of 52. She was promised a car and home in return for serving as a housekeeper and nanny for a man who worked for the World Bank. She was happy to be able to send money home to her family.



The reality was that she was enslaved by this family, paid nothing, beaten and terrorized. Her day consisted of rising before dawn to clean, make breakfast, prepare lunch for the children, clean more and prepare dinner. If the family went out she had to stay in the hallway of the apartment until they returned.

When neighbors heard her screaming they called the police, but the slave owners convinced the police that she was crazy. They got a security guard to watch her so she wouldn't hurt the children.

Finally neighbors who could still hear her cry helped her to escape. She was too traumatized to take part in the prosecution of her abusers and returned to West Africa penniless.

MORE INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

<http://www.freetheslaves.net/Page.aspx?pid=349>
http://humantrafficking.change.org/blog/view/for_child_domestic_servants_work_is_life
<http://nomoreslaveryct.com/tag/domestic-servitude/>
<http://www.international.ucla.edu/article.asp?parentid=109082>
<http://www.theabolition.org/solution.html>
<http://www.ipjc.org/journal/fall03/HumanTraffickingContinuumofAction.pdf>

PRAYER

Good and Provident God, you are the compassionate and loving Creator of all. With trust, we claim your justice, mercy, compassion, and comfort for the millions affected by human trafficking in our world today. God of all goodness, give freedom to those who are bound by the chains of modern-day slavery. Comfort those who are trapped and exploited, heal their hurts, give them courage and hope. Awaken in the hearts of those who are buying, selling, and holding other human beings enslaved, a sense of righteousness and justice. Unsettle those whose apathy allows human trafficking to go unchallenged. Give wisdom and insight to all lawmakers. Give valor and integrity to those who enforce the laws. Holy Spirit, show each of us how to live as a hope-filled presence in our world until all God's children are set free. **AMEN.**

Peggy Cummins SNDdeNamur



PENTECOST NOVENA

WHAT IS ECPAT

ECPAT is a network of organizations and individuals working together to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The acronym stands for “**End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes**”. **ECPAT** has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. **ECPAT** groups are located in 67 countries.

In 2006, **ECPAT** launched **The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism**. Suppliers of tourism services adopting the Code commit themselves to implement the following six criteria:

1. To establish an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children
2. To train the personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations
3. To introduce a clause in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiation of commercial sexual exploitation of children
4. To provide information to travelers by means of catalogues, brochures, in-flight films, ticket-slips, home pages, etc.
5. To provide information to local "key persons" at the destinations
6. To report annually

What we can do . . .

Check out the **ECPAT** website: <http://www.ecpatusa.org/>

Buy a **TassaTag** for your luggage: <http://www.tassatag.org/>

Travelers Take Action against Sex Slavery and Trafficking

Buy **Soft Hands Kind Heart Hand Cream** at **The Body Shop**. All proceeds go to support **ECPAT**. Check out their website to learn how this company is combating human trafficking: www.thebodyshop-usa.com/

Patronize only hotel chains and their franchises that have signed on to the **ECPAT** Code of Conduct. Before booking a hotel for a province or national assembly, find out if they have signed on to the **ECPAT** Code of Conduct. Some examples of those who have are:

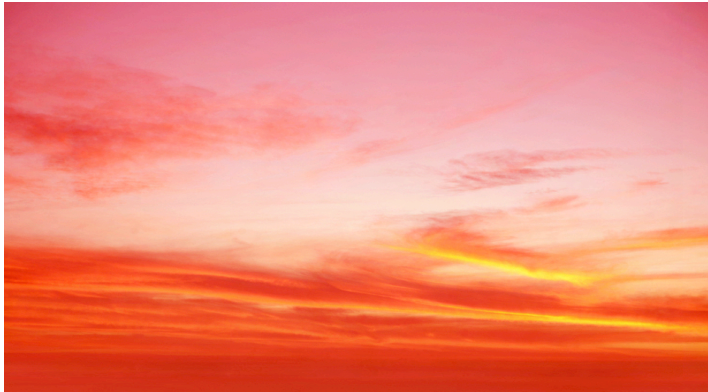
Regent . . . Radisson . . . Country Inns and Suites . . . TGI Fridays . . . Pick Up Stix . . . Carlson Wagonlit Travel . . . Clarion . . . Quality . . . Comfort Inn . . . Econolodge . . . Comfort Suites

Accompany our action with Constant Prayer

O God, our words cannot express what our minds can barely comprehend and our hearts feel when we hear of women and girls deceived and transported to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation and abuse because of human greed and profit at this time in our world. Our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are being transgressed through threats, deception, and force. We cry out against the degrading practice of trafficking and pray for it to end. Strengthen the fragile-spirited and broken-hearted. Make real your promises to fill our sisters with a love that is tender and good and send the exploiters away empty handed. Give us the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity with them, that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all of us. Amen.

Prayer by S. Gen Cassani, SSND

---Jo-Ann Flora, SND de Namur



PENTECOST NOVENA

CAST

Flor left her home and her children in Mexico to work in a neighbor's clothing factory in Los Angeles. As a single mother, she wanted an opportunity to save money so she could eventually open her own seamstress business back home. Instead, she found 17 hour days, and mistreatment that ranged from verbal abuse to being locked into the factory. Her plan to work six months and then return was completely derailed. (<http://www.msmagazine.com/summer2007/invisibleones.asp> for more)

Mimin also pursued her dream and followed her employer to the United States to work as their domestic help in an upscale community north of Los Angeles. Thousands of miles from her home and family in Indonesia, Mimin was isolated, forbidden to leave the house, and forced to work without pay. Her employers took her passport and warned her that she would be arrested or raped if she left the house. She cleaned, cooked, and cared for the family's children and pets for seven years before she had an opportunity to escape. (http://thestory.org/archive/the_story_1005_Mimin.mp3/view for more)

Both these women eventually found a Good Samaritan who directed them to the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking. Better known as CAST, the organization provides free shelter and client-centered services for victims of human trafficking. Through social services and legal assistance, survivors are empowered to re-engage and recover from their experience. Their resilience often astounds those who know their story. Some survivors choose to join the modern anti-slavery movement and become advocates for themselves and others. As members of the CAST Caucus of Survivors, they tell their stories to communities groups and to Congress in an effort to create a world in which no one will suffer like they did.

You can watch or read some of their stories here:

<http://www.castla.org/survivor-stories>

CAST collaborates with many women religious in its efforts to help survivors and advocate for change. Sisters of Notre Dame in California partner with CAST to provide a shelter where survivors can receive services in a safe, loving and confidential environment. Sisters in other orders also serve on the board and in fundraising efforts. Many congregations offer emergency supplies for rescued victims through the Freedom Bag project.

ACTION

You may never meet a trafficking survivor, but in case you do, keep hotline numbers in your phone or wallet:

National Hotline:

888.3737.888

CAST 24 hour hotline

888.KEY.2.FRE(EDOM)

888.539.2373

Prayer Requests



Good and Provident God, you are the compassionate and loving Creator of all. With trust, we claim your justice, mercy, compassion, and comfort for the millions affected by human trafficking in our world today. God of all goodness, give freedom to those who are bound by the chains of modern-day slavery. Comfort those who are trapped and exploited, heal their hurts,

give them courage and hope. Awaken in the hearts of those who are buying, selling, and holding other human beings enslaved, a sense of righteousness and justice. Unsettle those whose apathy allows human trafficking to go unchallenged. Give wisdom and insight to all lawmakers. Give valor and integrity to those who enforce the laws. Holy Spirit, show each of us how to live as a hope-filled presence in our world until all God's children are set free. Amen.

--Sr. Mary Pat Fitz, SND

Prayer to End Human Trafficking

Heavenly Father, we pray for the release of the millions of innocent children, teenagers, women and men who have been drawn into prostitution, sweatshops and domestic servitude by human trafficking. Increase our awareness of this terrible injustice. May the compassionate people who seek to help these victims be blessed in their efforts to free them from captivity and provide safe shelters for them. We confidently ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Intercession for Mass or during the Liturgy of the Hours

For freedom for everyone

and for an end to human trafficking

of millions of children and adults

and for blessings on those who assist in their release, we pray...

--Sr. Antonine Manning, SND

Lisa Helene Donovan

Collaborator, SND Coesfeld





PENTECOST NOVENA

The Role of Men and Boys in Gender Equality and Human Trafficking

“What Men have to do with it”

Education

Agreed Conclusions for Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality

Commission on the Status of Women, 2004

1. Gender-equitable education for boys and girls;
2. Engaging men as fathers in gender-equitable socialization of children and in caregiving;
3. Institutionalizing the inclusion of men and boys in gender equality and gender mainstreaming policies;
4. Public information campaigns and engaging the media, including the internet in questioning inequitable and sexist views;
5. Engaging men and boys in HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention and in sexual and reproductive health; and
6. Engaging men and boys to reduce gender based violence.

“Could changes in men’s attitudes and behaviors about health, violence and parenting benefit women, children – and men? Do national policies influence men’s behaviors in relation to child rearing, employment and gender-based violence? ICRW and partners on March 3, 2010 released a global, comparative policy analysis that examines how changes in national policies could help achieve gender equality.

Most policies that strive for equality still focus exclusively on empowering women and neglect the role that men can play in the effort. In the report, titled “What Men have to do With It,” experts summarize how policies of seven countries involve men in gender equality goals.

The study also analyzes whether the policies address social norms that reinforce traditional perceptions of what it means to be a man. The authors analyze advances, challenges and

remaining gaps in a range of policy arenas, such as public security, health, livelihoods and engaging men as fathers and caregivers. “What Men Have to do With It” calls for policy responses that account for the specific historical and political contexts of each country.” (International Research on Women – www.icrw.org)

Organizations working with Men & Boys to end Gender Inequality:

- Men Engage - http://www.menengage.org/default_en.asp
- Interagency Gender Working Group - <http://www.igwg.org/>
- UN Population Fund - <http://www.unfpa.org/gender/men.htm>
- White Ribbon Campaign - <http://www.whiteribbon.ca/>

Reflection

Music: “Beautiful Slave” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jYU9meVXKg>

Rosemary Reynolds SNDdeNamur



PENTECOST NOVENA

Stiffer State Laws Against Trafficking

Do you agree that stiffer state laws against trafficking in human beings would help curb the problem?

All states have *some* laws that can be enforced against traffickers. But a "stand-alone" felony statute sends a message that the residents of the state are angry about human trafficking and are determined to do something about it. (Stand-alone means that the law is written specifically for one purpose; the idea of trafficking is not appended, for example, to a law against prostitution.)

To find out if your state has stand-alone laws against human trafficking go to:

<http://www.trendtrack.com/texis/cq/viewrpt?event=49f99ef0e9>

If you live in Maryland, Washington State, California, Florida or the District of Columbia, this site will be useful :<http://www.sharedhope.org/what/marylandlobbyday2010.asp>. Legislation is *pending* and **Shared Hope International** is supporting it.

State officials get many fewer phone calls and e-mails than US representatives. Sponsors of anti-trafficking laws will be happy to know they have the support of Sisters of Notre Dame.

FOR REFLECTION:

Our foundress, St. Julie Billiart, used to say, "Just give me twelve women. If I have twelve women, we can make a difference."

(quoted by Sister Mary Daniel Turner in the introductory video at the exhibit of "Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America.")

Denise Curry, SND de Namur



PENTECOST NOVENA

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In the Congo, trafficking happens mostly within its borders, especially in the eastern Congo that is ravished by war these past 10 years. Women, men, girls and boys are used as:

- ✓ sexual slaves
- ✓ forced laborers in the mines (coltan, gold)
- ✓ domestic servants
- ✓ child combatants, and laborers
- ✓

They are used by indigenous and foreign armed groups from the Congo, Uganda and Rwanda. A small number of women and girls are trafficked outside the country for domestic servants and sex slaves in Republic of the Congo, South Africa and European countries, Norway is an example. According to UNICEF the estimate is that 30,000 child soldiers are used as combatants; of these 40% are girls.

To view the video of: *Nicole, A Child Soldier in Congo*, click on: [Videocrux - The life of a child soldier in eastern DR.Congo](#)

PRAYER:

Good, wonderful, and perfect, God,
We come to beg for your mercy.
You created Light.
But the world chooses to live without light.
You sent your Son Jesus to liberate the captives.
But the world continues to enslave people, especially children, and women and men.

Our hearts are broken and outraged, when we hear stories of trafficked people.

We come to beg your mercy for our brothers and sisters who have been trafficked and sold as slaves by their parents because they are unable to feed them.

We pray for those who buy these children because they need money and then sell them again.

We pray for those who then use these children, because of greed, for: sexual exploitation and prostitution, backbreaking forced labor in the fields and mines, and to kill as child soldiers.

We pray for the girls and boys who sell themselves for the “good promises” without knowing the reality of evil. Once enslaved, these children experience the reality, and then want to escape, but realize they are trapped, not knowing where to turn, or what to do. Be with these children, whose spirits are broken and hearts have lost hope, O God.

For these evil decisions which dehumanize women, men, girls and boys, because they are not considered to have value or human dignity, we ask God to have mercy and transform the traffickers.

God, help us to imitate the courage of your Son, Jesus, who came to liberate oppressed people of all races, language and nations. Help us to work tirelessly in the work of Anti-Human Trafficking, even if it means we put our own lives in danger. It is then that we continue to work steadfastly for your reign of peace and justice for all. AMEN.

Sister Isabelle Izika SND de Namur



Pentecost Novena

To Stop Human Trafficking

Walking with Those Who Mourn in Uganda

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, come.
Many are longing for the freedom you offer.
Fill the hearts of your faithful men and women
with wisdom, courage and knowledge,
so that they may be liberators of their brothers and sisters
who are trafficked.
Enkindle in lawmakers everywhere the desire for just laws
which protect children, women and men from exploitation.
Send forth your spirit so that the hearts of those who traffick others
may be created anew with a sense of compassion and respect.
Renew the face of the earth allowing it to be a worthy setting
for all God's children.
O God, who instructs the hearts of your people,
by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by this same Holy Spirit,
a love and desire for what is right and just and a constant
enjoyment of your peace for ourselves and our brothers and sisters.

Walk With...

Meet **Jennifer Achoro** who was twelve years old and on her way to school when she was kidnapped. "I had just put on my school uniform and was about to eat breakfast, when some men from the rebel army came and asked my mother whether we had a radio. When she said 'No,' they forced their way into our hut and forced me along with them."
(Jennifer is among more than 30,000 children who have been abducted in the north of Uganda to act as child soldiers, laborers, and sex slaves for the Lord's Resistance Army. The LRA is one of the most brutal rebel armies in the world.)

Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Walk With...

Meet **Godfrey Kajubi**. He was charged with killing of 12 year old boy in 2008. According to the initial allegation, he hired a Tanzanian couple to assist with cutting off the 12 year old boy's head and genitals, which were handed back to Kajubi. The couple later testified Kajubi accompanied them in his car to chop off the boy's head. The couple also said that Kajubi helped the man collect the boy's blood in a plastic basin. (As atrocious as it sounds, child trafficking for human sacrifice purposes is not uncommon in Uganda. Children are more likely to be targeted as objects of human sacrifice in Uganda than adults because their spirits are considered as pure and virgin. One witch doctor stated that his clients regularly brought 3 human hearts and blood every week. His clients believe that they can obtain wealth by sacrificing children's body parts. In November 2008 alone, 100 children were reportedly missing in Uganda, and 80% of them were reported in Kampala city, the country's capital city and the most modernized place. Further, more than 25 ritual murders involving children were reported in 2006 while 260 cases of child abduction were reported in the same year. In 2009, 18 cases of child sacrifice were reported, but only 15 of them were investigated.)

Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Walk With...

Meet **Atugonza Maria** who is 9 years old. Atugonza's father sold her for \$130 to men who brought her to Kenya. "They promised me that I would go to a good school in Kenya and help a woman to clean her house. When I got there, I was beat very hard. They locked me in a room and they bring men in who do hurtful things to me. If I try to refuse, I get many beatings and no food. If I am nice to the men who visit me, then I get food. I cry every night because I want to see my mother."

(**Ruth Visick Evans, Director, Oasis Uganda**, an NGO, says, "The problem of human trafficking is rampant in eastern and central regions where many children are taken to the border and smuggled easily into neighboring Kenya for forced labor and prostitution." **Victoria Nafula**, a senior immigration officer in Kampala agrees and reveals that at least 300 children are shipped out everyday for as little as \$130 per child.)

Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Read Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4 – The Gift of the Spirit

Reflection:

- What thoughts, feelings, or responses do I notice within me as I read the stories above?
- The Holy Spirit filled the apostles and enabled them to proclaim. How might the Holy Spirit be calling you begin to address these injustices?
- How do my attitudes and practices need to change?
- Do I need more information about trafficking of human persons? Are there books, articles, websites I can read?
- Is it possible for me to network with others so together a positive contribution can be made to eradicate human trafficking?

Intercessions: Send forth your Spirit of Compassion, O God, so that child soldiers, laborers, and sex slaves may be released by their captors and be given the love and help they need to rebuild their lives with trust in others. We pray...

Concluding Prayer: Good and Provident God, compassionate and loving Creator of all, we come to you on behalf of the millions affected by human trafficking in our world today. God of all goodness, give freedom to those who are bound by the chains of modern-day slavery. Comfort the trapped and exploited. Heal their pain, and give them courage, hope and a sense of their own worth. Awaken a sense of justice, respect, and compassion in any persons whose actions contribute to the enslavement of their fellow human beings. Unsettle any of us whose apathy allows human trafficking to go unchallenged. Give wisdom and insight to lawmakers. Give strength, conviction, and integrity to those who enforce the laws. Activate in us all a sense of responsibility for our enslaved brothers and sisters. Show us how to be instruments of your love, justice, and peace, so that all God's children are set free. Amen. (*Sisters of Notre Dame. Covington, Kentucky*)

Colette Theobald, SND Coesfeld Uganda

Resources:

Uganda: Google -- human trafficking Uganda

Film *War Dance*

Video clip: Lord's Children/PBS (video.yahoo.com)

www.invisiblechildren.com

Other: www.acff.hhs.gov/trafficking/

www.usccb.org/mrs/traffick

www.state.gov/g/tip/

www.ungift.org

Uganda

Uganda has substantial natural resources, including fertile soils, regular rainfall, and sizable mineral deposits of copper, cobalt, gold, and other minerals. Agriculture is the most important sector of the economy, employing over 80% of the work force. Coffee accounts for the bulk of export revenues. Since 1986, the government - with the support of foreign countries and international agencies - has acted to rehabilitate and stabilize the economy by undertaking currency reform, raising producer prices on export crops, increasing prices of petroleum products, and improving civil service wages. [*The World Factbook, U.S.C.I.A. 2009*]

