



Dear Pastor,

Human trafficking constitutes one of the gravest offenses against the human family. It preys upon the most vulnerable women, children, and men who are frequently tricked or coerced into performing uncompensated work or degrading and dangerous activities. It denies everything that a civilized society stands for and that Catholic social teaching promotes: the protection of human dignity and human rights; the preferential option for the poor; the call to family and community; the rights of workers; and solidarity. As Pope Francis has written, "We must unite our efforts to free the victims and stop this increasingly aggressive crime."

So today we write to ask that you read and utilize the enclosed toolkit, which has been developed by the Wisconsin Region of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Catholic women religious around the world have been among the most active in the fight against human trafficking. They have rescued, housed, healed, educated, and found good employment for thousands of victims. They have tirelessly lobbied governments and businesses for stricter laws and stronger protections. We are deeply grateful to the sisters of our state for making this rich collection of resources available at no cost to every parish in Wisconsin and we fully endorse its contents. We ask that you share their tool kit with your parish respect life and social concerns groups.

Human trafficking thrives wherever there is darkness and secrecy. Please help to shine a light on this terrible practice so that awareness, assistance, and justice can bring it to an end.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Jerome E. Listeck*

The Most Reverend Jerome E. Listeck  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

*+ David L. Ricken*

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken  
Bishop of Green Bay

*+ Robert C. Morlino*

The Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino  
Bishop of Madison

*+ William P. Callahan*

The Most Reverend William P. Callahan  
Bishop of La Crosse

*Very Rev James P. Powers*

The Very Reverend James P. Powers  
Administrator, Diocese of Superior

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