

SLAVES AMONG US

The Reality of Human Trafficking in the US and Abroad

GRADES 7-9 - Lesson II (Year III, Day 4)

Goal: Students will learn about the growing problem of human trafficking, both domestic and international. They will learn what trafficking victims experience, how to recognize the victimization of a modern-day slave, and how to keep themselves safe from predators.

Lesson:

Human trafficking is one of the most insidious crimes happening in our communities. Although the goal is not to scare students, it is important for them to understand that their peers, friends, and even themselves could become a target of a trafficker. By educating ourselves about the common strategies used to lure victims and being able to recognize a victim who may be hidden in plain sight, we can help end this scourge.

Watch:

[PSA: LEARN the signs of HUMAN TRAFFICKING](#)

[Child Worker 2 - Human Trafficking](#)

[This is Human Trafficking - Social Media Recruitment | Youth Activists Inc.](#)

Discussion:

- What are some forms of human trafficking that you might encounter among your peers here in New York?
- What are some signs that a person could be a victim of human trafficking?
- What can you do to protect yourself and your friends from being victimized?

Watch: [What Would You Do](#), pausing to have the discussions suggested in the video.

Activity: St. Patrick Research the real story of the patron saint of the Archdiocese of New York - St. Patrick. What does he have to do with human trafficking? What lessons we learn from him about how God can use even great evil to bring about great good?

Suggestion: [The Real St. Patrick](#)

Prayer: Saint Martin de Porres is a Peruvian saint. His father was a Spanish nobleman, and his mother was of African and Native descent. She had been previously enslaved. Saint Martin grew up with the stigma of being from a mixed racial background. However, he did not let this stop him from having a relationship with God and treating those around him with holiness and love.

Prayer to ask for Saint Martin de Porres' intercession

To you Saint Martin de Porres we prayerfully lift up our hearts filled with serene confidence and devotion. Mindful of your unbounded and helpful charity to all levels of society and also of your meekness and humility of heart, we offer our petitions to you. Pour out upon our families the precious gifts of your solicitous and generous intercession; show to the people of every race and every color the paths of unity and of justice; implore from our Father in heaven the coming of his kingdom, so that through mutual benevolence in God men may increase the fruits of grace and merit the rewards of eternal life. Amen. (Catholic.org)

Additional Resources for Teachers and Parents:

[National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) Call 1-888-373-7888 or Text* 233733 to report potential human trafficking or ask for help or advice.

[Project iGuardian](#) offers practical solutions for teens, parents, and educators for keeping kids safe from online sexual predators. Online resources as well as information on booking school presentations and a local tip line. Created by Department of Homeland Security.

[Blue Campaign](#) is part of the United States government department of Homeland Security. It “is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the [indicators](#) of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases.”

For Teachers: Website with [teaching materials for all grade levels on internet safety](#) and keeping kids safe from traffickers. Includes handouts, exercise suggestions and online resources. From the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

For Parents: [Covenant Eyes](#) internet accountability and tracking software for purchase that can help keep kids safe from pornography online.

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace and the Nashville Dominicans "Virtues in Practice" Program