

Monday, February 8, 2021

Monday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

*Saint Jerome Emiliani; Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin*

Two saints are recognized today. Jerome Emiliani was from Italy and served as a soldier in the Venetian army, had a conversion experience in prison, and began to serve the poor and sick during an epidemic. He became a priest, founding the Clerks Regular of Somascha in 1534, and would die of the plague in 1537 after, once again, serving the sick during that plague. He dedicated himself to the poor, especially to orphans and abandoned children, of whom he is the patron saint. His mission included teaching the children and leading them to know God as their Father and Jesus as their Savior.

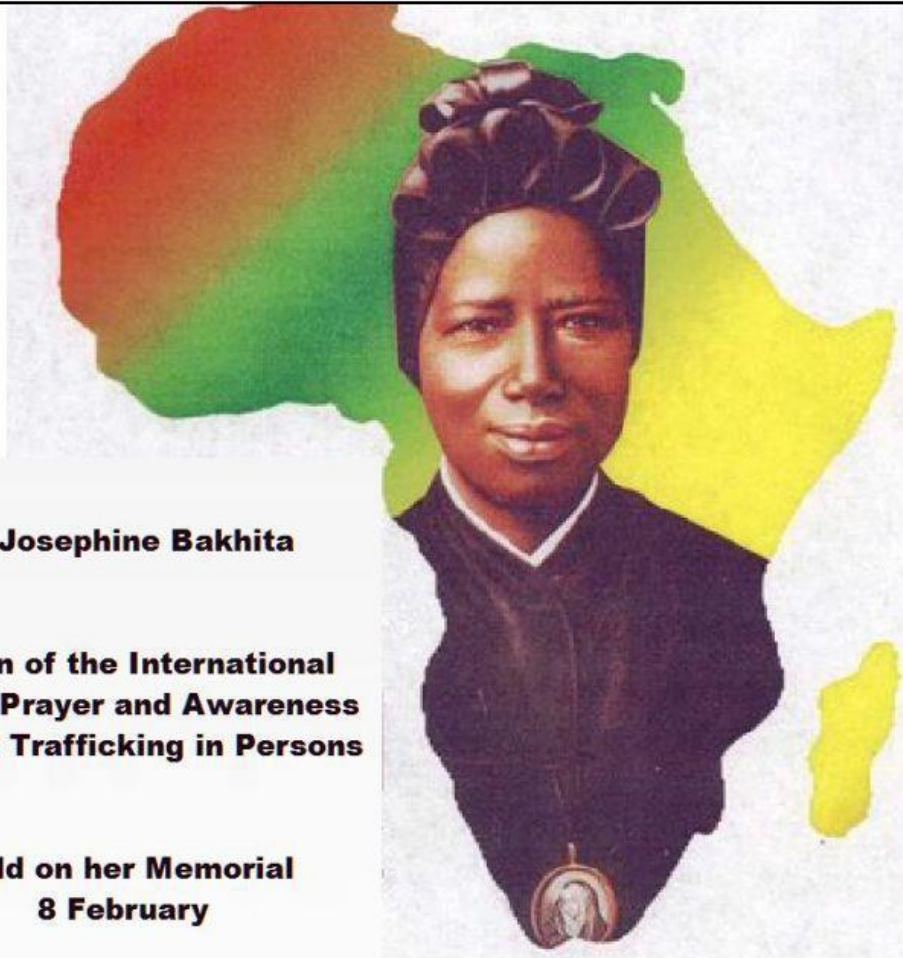
Josephina Bakhita was from Sudan, enslaved as a child, mistreated during that time of slavery and an Italian family who brought her to Italy helped release from slavery. She served the family as a nanny, was taken by the example of the Christians with whom she lived. She wanted what they had, was catechized, and was baptized. She met the Conossian Daughters of Charity and entered their order, serving as cook, seamstress and portress at several convents in Italy. She died in 1947 and was canonized in 2000. Her name, Bakhita, means “fortunate” or “lucky one”. She understood how fitting is her name, having met Jesus and radiated the joy of Christ to all who met her.

Jesus again heals those who come to Him in faith, even as they beg to “touch only the tassel on his cloak”!  
Saints Jerome Emiliani and Josephine Bakhita, pray for us!

God Love You!

*Fr. Jim Starasovich*





**St Josephine Bakhita**

**Patron of the International  
Day of Prayer and Awareness  
against Trafficking in Persons**

**Held on her Memorial  
8 February**

**"Rejoice, all of Africa!  
Bakhita has come back to you:  
the daughter of the Sudan,  
sold into slavery  
as a living piece of merchandise  
and yet still free:  
free with the freedom of the saints."**

**St Pope John Paul**