



Scripture

"It was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt." Deuteronomy 7:8 from The Poverty and Justice Bible, Catholic Edition.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3: 28 from The Poverty and Justice Bible, Catholic Edition.

Catechism

"Freedom is exercised in relationships between human beings. Every human person, created in the image of God, has the natural right to be recognized as a free and responsible being. All owe to each other this duty of respect. The right to the exercise of freedom, especially in moral and religious matters, is an inalienable requirement of the dignity of the human person. This right must be recognized and protected by civil authority within the limits of the common good and public order."

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1738

Comment

In recent years, the scourge of modern slavery has been highlighted by charities, the media and governments. Whilst the disgrace of the transatlantic slave trade was abolished two centuries ago, it is a sad fact that slavery exists today, its modern form having morphed into domestic slavery, manual servitude, forced labour, bonded labour etc. In some cases, such as domestic slavery, it can be harder to tackle as the deprivation of freedom takes place behind closed doors and sometimes it inflicted by those whom society deems "respectable".

Organisation of the month

Originally founded as The British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, the organisation Anti-Slavery International is a registered charity and the oldest non-governmental organisation (NGO) dedicated to human rights, having started in 1839. It works exclusively to tackle slavery in all its form. Access lots of valuable information about this charity by going to its website: www.antislavery.org

Pray, Think, Act

Pray: that the Lord who set his people free from bondage in Egypt may bring about justice and freedom for all those created in His image; that Jesus Christ His beloved Son may bring healing and peace to the victims of slavery; that the Holy Spirit may move the hearts of the perpetrators of slavery to repentance and a change of heart whilst inspiring individuals, organisations and governments to do more to prevent slavery at its source.

Think: of ten things that you have decided to do or say today by means of your free will. What would do if you did not have these fundamental freedoms?

Act: Visit www.antislavery.org for more information and ways in which you can support their cause, 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*