



CELEBRATING ST. BAKHITA: A MODEL OF HOPE AND REDEMPTION

On February 8th, we celebrate the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, a saint whose life radiates the transformative power of God's grace and the dignity bestowed upon every human being by our Creator. Born in Sudan and sold into slavery as a child, St. Bakhita endured unimaginable suffering. Yet, through the grace of God, she found freedom and the Catholic faith that transformed her life. Her story is a profound testament to the redemptive love of Christ and a beacon of hope for survivors of human trafficking.

At Children of the Immaculate Heart (CIH), we see St. Bakhita's legacy reflected in our mission to serve survivors of sex trafficking. Like St. Bakhita, the women we assist carry wounds from their past, but through the healing power of God's love, they rediscover their inherent dignity and begin the journey toward restoration. As we honor this incredible saint, we invite you to join us in prayer for all those impacted by trafficking and for the success of our efforts to be instruments of Christ's mercy and healing.



Novena to St. Bakhita

Please join us in praying a novena to St. Bakhita leading up to her feast day. The novena starts on January 31st and ends on February 8th. We will be using the novena found here: catholicnovenaapp.com/novenas/st-josephine-bakhita-novena

GALA SPOTLIGHT

Join us for an evening of Mardi Gras and mission. The countdown is on for CIH's 12th Annual Gala, happening on March 1, 2025! This year's Mardi Gras-themed celebration promises an evening of joy, inspiration, and purpose rooted in faith. We are thrilled to welcome Cy Kellett, host of Catholic Answers Live, as our emcee, and Dr. Jamie Gates, cultural anthropologist and expert on human trafficking, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Gates will shed light on San Diego's role as a trafficking hub and the critical need for community action—a topic that resonates deeply with our mission to serve Christ by serving the most vulnerable.

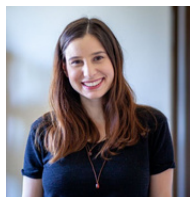
Don't miss the Circle of the Redeemer pre-gala mixer, where monthly donors have the opportunity to connect with Cy Kellett, Dr. Gates, CIH staff, and board members.

This is more than just a night of celebration; it is a chance to stand united in faith and action against trafficking and to support the life-changing work of CIH. Purchase your tickets today at childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/12th-annual-gala.

In Christ,

Jenna Christakis

Development Associate





SACRIFICIAL LOVE: A VALENTINE'S REFLECTION ON CHRIST'S LOVE AND OUR MISSION

As Valentine's Day approaches, the world's focus often shifts to love in a shallow or material sense. Yet true love, as revealed in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is sacrificial and self-giving. St. Valentine, a priest and martyr, embodied this love by laying down his life in service to God and His Church. His example reminds us that authentic love requires sacrifice and is always oriented toward the good of others.

This sacrificial love lies at the heart of CIH's mission. Whether we are providing counseling, or spiritual support to survivors of trafficking, every act of love flows from the charity of Christ. By supporting CIH, you participate in this mission, sharing in the redemptive love that brings light and hope to those in darkness. This Valentine's Day, let us reflect on how we are called to imitate Christ's sacrificial love in our own lives and work.

Ways to Support CIH This February

- **Pray:** Lift up survivors, staff, and supporters in prayer, asking for the intercession of St. Bakhita and the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- **Attend the Gala:** Join us on March 1st and invite friends to experience the joy of giving back as an act of faith.
- **Donate:** Your generosity fuels our mission to be the hands and feet of Christ. Visit childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/donate to make a gift.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary inspire all our efforts as we work together to restore dignity and hope through His grace.

Client Corner

"When I got pregnant with my son, he changed my life so much. He made me believe in love and hope. There were times I wanted to give up, but I did not. I cannot thank CIH, especially Grace, Jenna, and Amy for having been here for me every step of the way. Whenever I call, they answer no matter what time it is. We have a group meeting every week with other clients. It is so peaceful, we're like a family. CIH helps me with so much, including with therapy, group, rent, gas and anything I need for my kids. I'm so thankful for the program. I know that whatever secret that I say between anyone it's safe. I'm so proud to be a part of a program like this one."

~2023 Client Graduate

"CIH isn't just a program, they've become like a family to me. The line of work that they do is so important and has so much meaning behind it. CIH has been so supportive and has never passed judgement on me or made me feel less of a person or that I had to say 'yes' to everything. It makes a difference when an organization actually gives you a choice instead of trying to force their way on you. I can be honest with them, I don't have to lie. I don't know where I'd be without CIH, but one thing I can say is that I am thankful that I don't have to find out. I know that I am going to be okay because I have a whole team behind me who supports me and has helped me get through my darkest battles."

~ Current Client



info@ciheart.org
(619) 431-5537
P.O. Box 882087
San Diego, CA 92168
ChildrenOfTheImmaculateHeart.org