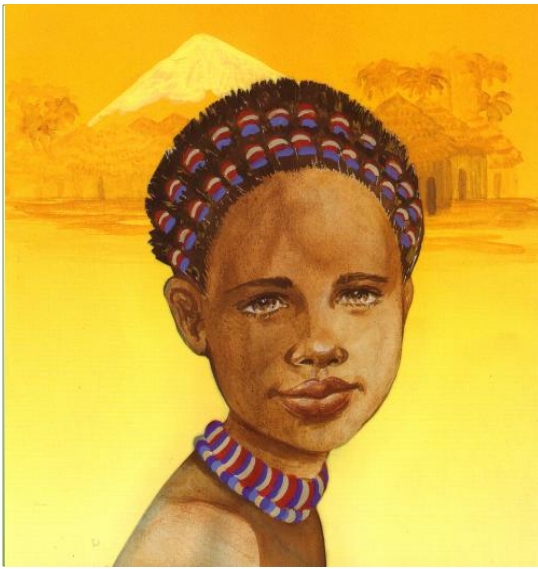




*and her Mysteries*



# Bakhita and her Mysteries

In Josephine Bakhita we have an eminent witness of God's fatherly love and a luminous sign of the perennial relevance of the Beatitudes.

In our time, in which the unbridled race for power, money and pleasure, is the cause of so much distrust, violence and loneliness, Sr. Bakhita has been given to us once more by the Lord as a **Universal Sister**, so that she may reveal to us the secret of our happiness: the Beatitudes.

Here is a message of heroic goodness modelled on the goodness of the Heavenly Father. She has left us a witness of evangelical reconciliation and forgiveness which will surely bring consolation to the Christians of her homeland, the Sudan, sorely tried by a conflict that has lasted for many years and reaped so many victims.

Sr. Bakhita goes before them and before us on the path of imitating Christ, of deepening of our Christian life and making unshakeable our attachment to the Church.

*John Paul II*

## Invocation

G In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

G I believe, O God, You are the Father of life  
I believe, O God, You are the Father of love

T I believe, O God, You are the Father of the Saints  
I believe, O God, You are the Father of each one of us

G I believe, O God, You are the Father of humanity  
I believe, O God, You are the Father of the cosmos

T I believe, O God, You are the Father of all peoples  
I believe, O God, You are the Father of the poor

G. I adore You, O Father, with all my existence  
I adore You, O Father, with all my energy

T I praise You, O Father, for all your creatures  
I praise You, O Father, for St. Josephine Bakhita

T Praise to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
AMEN!

## Song

G Let us now meditate on the mysteries of St. Josephine Bakhita's life.



### **Mystery of Joy**

L *My family lived right in the centre of Africa, in a district of Darfur, called Algossa, near Mt. Agilere. It was composed of my father, my mother, three brothers, three sisters and four other children who died before I was born. I had a twin sister.*  
*I was enchanted by nature. I was enchanted at the sight of the rising sun and its setting. Full of wonder I gazed at the twinkling of the stars that seemed so near in the limpid African sky ...*  
*I loved plants and flowers ... I asked myself: "Oh! Who could be the Master of all these things? How I wish I could know him so as to pay him homage. I was completely happy without any knowledge of suffering.*

**\* Pause for reflection with Bakhita**

**\* Intercessions**

L **For all the children of the world and of Sudan in particular:**  
through the intercession of St. Josephine Bakhita, may they be completely happy and be illumined by the beauties of creation and by the love of their parents, let us pray

T **Lord, grant us your love.**

L **For the Church:** may it be untiring in the proclamation of the Gospel to all peoples and seek to find real solutions to the difficulties of the poorest, especially those in Africa, let us pray

T **Lord, grant us your love.**

L **For the leaders of the nations:** may they be guided by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and put their gifts of mind and heart at the service of the growth and development of their own Nations, let us pray

T **Lord, grant us your love.**

**Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...**



### **Mystery of her First Sorrow**

L *While we were in the fields, we heard shouts and people running. Everyone knew immediately that the slave traders had come to the village to steal. We returned home and what sorrow when we heard from our smallest sister, so frightened and trembling, that kidnappers had carried off our eldest sister. I can still remember how much my mother cried and how much we cried too.*

**\* Pause for reflection with Bakhita**

**\* Intercessions**

L **For those children who suffer:** through the intercession of our Universal Sister, St. Bakhita, God of life and freedom, grant all children and youngsters of the world, especially those in Sudan, strength and courage in every situation of life in which they find themselves, let us pray

T **Grant us, Lord, your strength.**

L **For all those who suffer:** sustained by the truth of the Paschal Mystery, known or yet to be discovered, may Christ be their comfort, relief and hope, let us pray

T **Grant us, Lord, your strength.**

L **For all those of good will:** guide them, Lord, with your divine light along the paths of truth and may they live their vocation worthily, let us pray

T **Grant us, Lord, your strength.**

**Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...**



### **Sorrowful Mystery: Kidnapped**

L *I was nine when, one morning I was walking with a friend in our fields not far from home ... all of a sudden we saw two armed strangers with knives who jumped out from a hedge.*  
*"Let this little one go to the edge of the wood to collect my bundle ..." I did not suspect anything. I obeyed*

*immediately just as I did with my mother... but one of them took hold of me roughly with one hand and with the other took from his belt a long knife and dug it into side. I was petrified with fear and began to tremble from head to toe. I wanted to scream but I was unable. My bloody Way of the Cross had started.*

**\* Pause for reflection with Bakhita**

**\* Intercessions**

L **For the slaves of today:** Father of goodness, you showed your special love for the poor African slave, Bakhita; grant freedom to all those, especially children, who are still today taken from the love of their parents, let us pray

T **Lord, save us in your mercy.**

L **For the poor:** Lord, you love the little ones and the least, save children and young people from temptation and evil and grant them holy parents and educators committed to their mission, let us pray

T **Lord, save us in your mercy.**

L **For parents:** Lord, may they be sustained by the strength and courage you give them, especially when sorrow knocks at their door. With you, may they guide their children on the path traced by you in your goodness and love, let us pray

T **Lord, save us in your mercy.**

**Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...**



**Sorrowful Mystery: Slavery**

L *I called my mother and father with such a spirit of anguish that it cannot be imagined. The man took me into a hut ... I remained there for more than a month. What I suffered during that long period, no words can describe. One morning, the master sold me to an Arab, a slave merchant, who put me with other slaves. And, village after village, the slave caravan increased in number... heavy chains on our feet, secured with a padlock. One evening, in a village, the master took off our chains so that we could clean some vegetables and went away. I met the eye of another young girl and off we ran. We ran as fast as we could the whole night, we were exhausted and starving. But we were caught, sold again ... whipped and maltreated, which carried away our skin ... and no one came to tend our wounds ... and what about the cruel art of tattooing? Long incisions on the chest and stomach, as many as 60 and on the right arm 48, then they rubbed salt into them ... Immersed in a pool of blood ... I thought I would die.*

**\* Pause for reflection with Bakhita**

**\* Intercessions**

L **For those who suffer injustice:** may their sufferings be made efficacious by the sufferings of Christ and in Christ may they find strength to accept and forgive their persecutors, following the example of Josephine Bakhita, let us pray

T **Comfort us, Lord, in your mercy.**

L **For those who commit injustice:** Lord, these people are your sons and daughters; touch their hearts with the greatness of your love, transform them and grant them the grace to return to the Father, let us pray

T **Comfort us, Lord, in your mercy.**

L **For God's people:** Lord, grant us the grace to accept daily life with all its sufferings and difficulties, and comfort those who are in distress, let us pray

**Comfort us, Lord, in your mercy.**

**Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...**



**Mystery of Light**

L *Towards freedom: I dared to ask the Consul, who had bought me, to take me to Italy and I succeeded. I stayed in the house of Signora Turina in Mirano. For the first time I saw a Crucifix ... I kissed it with devotion ... then M. Fabretti prepared me to receive the Sacraments. 9th January 1890 I was baptised and took the names Josephine Margherita Fortunata (Bakhita). On the same day I was Confirmed and received Jesus in*

*Communion. Later I decided to become a Sister ... I received If I remained kneeling all my life, I would never be able to express my gratitude to the Good God. I begged the Lord to give me the grace to correspond to His will. My whole life has been a gift.*

**\* Pause for reflection with Bakhita**

**\* Intercessions**

L **For young people:** O God, Lord of the harvest, send workers into your harvest. Inspire many young people to follow your Son in the way of self-giving to You and to your people. Keep them in your truth, let us pray  
T **Father, grant us holy vocations.**

L **For all consecrated people:** Jesus Crucified, the Greatest Love, perfect model of compassion and love, grant that religious men and women may witness to the world the mysterious force of love, let us pray  
T **Father, grant us holy vocations.**

L **For missionaries:** may the blessing of the Most High descend on missionaries scattered throughout the world so that, with your divine light, they may guide all people on the way of truth and love, let us pray  
T **Father, grant us holy vocations.**

**Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...**



**Mystery of Glory**

L *I hope the Lord will come to take me soon, however may He do what He wishes: neither an hour before nor an hour after. What is important to us is to think of heaven: that is where the Lord and Master is. I have given everything to my Master, He will think of me: He is obliged to do so.*  
*Madre, non ho più niente ormai. Mi restano solo la corona e il Crocifisso, ma se vuole le do anche questi. Così vuole el Paron. Pensa il Signore: è Lui il Padrone. I am going towards Eternity ... I am going with two suitcases: one contains my sins, the other, much heavier, contains the merits of Jesus Christ. When I will appear before the Lord, I will cover my ugly suitcase with the merits of Our Lady, then I will open the other one and present the merits of Jesus and I will say to the Eternal Father: "Judge what You see". Oh, I am sure I will not be sent away! Then I will turn to St. Peter and tell him: "Close the door because I am staying."... At the entrance I will see St. Peter, I will ask him to call our Foundress, Magdalene of Canossa, and Our Lady. They will come and say: "Oh, you are here, my dear. Come, we will present you to Jesus".*  
*Our Lady did not delay. I said, "How happy I am ! Our Lady ... Our Lady". And the "Paron" threw the doors of Heaven wide open.*

**\* Pause for reflection with Bakhita**

**\* Intercessions**

L **For all consecrated people:** Lord Jesus, you raised Josephine Bakhita, precious gift of Africa, to the heights of holiness; inspire all consecrated people to journey along the path of evangelical perfection, let us pray  
T **Jesus, grant us your Blessedness.**

L **For God's people:** Father, Lord of life and love, mould and form us into authentic followers of your Son and grant us your Spirit of Truth and Wisdom who will guide us in our choices and decisions, let us pray  
T **Jesus, grant us your Blessedness.**

L **For all of us:** may God's Spirit help us to believe in the value of life and appreciate it, as we work to sustain justice, treat with love the poor and despised, and respect the resources of the earth, let us pray  
T **Jesus, grant us your Blessedness.**

**Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...**



## **GIUSEPPINA BAKHITA**

*Giuseppina Bakhita, Bakhita, Bakhita  
tu sei Santa!*

Presa schiava, prega per noi.

soffristi molto, prega per noi.

sei andata lontana, prega per noi

Sei riscattata, prega per noi

trovi la gioia, prega per noi

incontri il Signore. prega per noi

Doni te stessa, prega per noi

Maddalena è l'esempio, prega per noi

sei serva di tutti. prega per noi

Ora dal cielo, Madre Moretta, prega per noi

intercedi per noi presso il Signore. prega per noi

Nella tua terra fiorisca la chiesa. prega per noi

*Remember ...*

*You count the days in your way,  
God counts them in His.*

*Bakhita*

## **Prayers**

### **O God our Father,**

freedom of the oppressed and comfort of the poor,  
You call all men and women from all nations  
to experience the blessedness of freedom and faith.  
Inflame the hearts of your children  
with the desire to reach the same holiness  
with which You filled St. Josephine Bakhita, virgin,  
and grant that, faithful to your commandments,  
we too may serve you with the same purity of heart.  
Through Christ our Lord. **AMEN!**

**Or**

### **O God, Father of Mercy,**

You have given us St. Josephine Bakhita  
as a "universal sister", an evangelic model  
of humble faith and ardent charity.  
Grant also to us the will to believe and to love  
in the spirit of the Gospel,  
and listen favourably to the prayers  
of those who ask for her intercession.  
Through Christ our Lord. **AMEN!**

*St. Josephine Bakhita,  
pray for us!*