



Archdiocese of Cape Town

7th May 2010

Dear Fathers/Deacons,

As you are aware, the Church has great concerns surrounding Human Trafficking and other forms of abuse during the Soccer world cup. There is real danger that trafficking will increase during these weeks before the influx of visitors from other countries. Children and women – but also young people - are particularly vulnerable, as they may be lured by promises of work and money, in order to provide sexual services to tourists.

Trafficking, as you know, refers to deceiving people by lucrative offers, usually of employment. On acceptance, victims are often transported to other places and may be drugged, forced into prostitution, pornography or forced labour. In some cases body parts are removed for organ transplants or “muti”.

With this in mind, I request that at all Masses on the 23rd May, Pentecost Sunday, we pray for an end to human trafficking throughout the world, and also that we raise awareness of the dangers in South Africa at the time of the World Cup. This can be done by:

- Alerting parishioners in your homily to the reality of this crime
- Including in the Prayers of the Faithful intercessions for protection of women, children and young people
- Appealing to parents to protect their children and to know their whereabouts during the weeks of the World Cup
- Mentioning that Fan Parks are places of particular danger
- Encouraging daily prayer for an end to this crime of modern day slavery
- Praying for a change of heart in all traffickers
- Informing parishioners of the toll-free HELPLINE 0800 555 999, which can be used not only by victims but also by those who may witness suspicious activity

I apologise for the late notice of this request, but I believe that the issue is of such great importance that every effort should be made to pray for an end to trafficking and for the protection of the most vulnerable. With the psalmist we pray “Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth”.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Stephen Brislin

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