

Thank you to everyone who attended the labor trafficking workshop. Hopefully, we provided you with the tools needed to accurately identify and approach possible victims. This workshop was only the beginning. Now it's your turn to do your own research and learn more about the issues surrounding modern-day slavery. There are several good resources such as The Polaris Project and the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign. We then encourage you to share that information with others. Together we can bring an end to modern-day slavery.

Here are a few takeaways from the workshop:

- Labor trafficking (LT) is sadly a reality here in the United States, occurring in industries with which we interact on a daily basis (i.e. hotels, restaurants, stores)
- LT is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.
- While there may be certain risk factors, trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, education-level, or socio-economic status
- Recognize the signs:
 - Individual comes to church but limits interaction with other parishioners
 - Someone drops off and picks up the individual before and after church services;
 - The individual comes to church with a family, but she or he is clearly present only to care for the children
 - Individual may present with untreated dental or medical conditions
 - Individual seems hyper vigilant, shy, paranoid, nervous
- When approaching a possible individual in a trafficking situation:
 - Assess the safety of the situation for you and the identified individual
 - Do not be afraid to start the conversation—presence is powerful
 - HOW you ask can be more important than WHAT you ask—use language that is non-judgmental and supportive
 - Use open-ended questions that ask about basic information and avoid direct questions which can scare the individual
 - Recognize and validate the individual's experiences, feelings, and strengths
 - Help individual know there are resources available that do not risk their presence and safety
- Several resources and legal protections are available to survivors of severe forms of human trafficking (e.g. T visa)

If you or someone you know is in a human trafficking situation, please call The National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1.888.373.7888 or the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington Trafficking Victims Assistance Program (TVAP) at 202.481.1414.