



ST. ANDREW'S CROSS



JANUARY 2019

JANUARY IS NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

Human Trafficking: The Modern-Day Scourge of Slavery

By Mike McDonnell, Brotherhood of St. Andrew
Vice-President of Social Justice Ministries

We live in a world rife with cynicism, racism, hatred, and bigotry. The most despicable of all of these sins is the enslavement of another person to accommodate greed, lust, and an insatiable desire to control another's life. In the First Letter to Timothy, we find Paul's words: *"The law is laid down not for the innocent but for the lawless and disobedient, for the godless and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their father or mother, for murderers, fornicators, sodomites, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching that conforms to glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me."* 1 Timothy 8-11



Most Americans turn a blind eye to slavery believing it only existed in the past, possibly during the Civil War or maybe in biblical times remembering Moses freeing the Hebrews from Egypt. I have read commentators who believed that slavery was a means used by the ancient world to care for widows, the poor, and the less fortunate; producing a welfare system through servitude. It is possible some wealthy individuals took responsibility for those requiring help and these same people may have been emboldened by the fact that Jesus never spoke of physical slavery, but of the slavery that made us prisoners to sin. If you read Paul's words above, you may wonder to yourself how people could believe that slavery was right in any way, shape or form. I am a pragmatic person and I think Jesus was

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**THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS
COINCIDENCE AT A FIRST-EVER
BROTHERHOOD RETREAT**

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WELCOME
2019**

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**DIRECTLY
SPEAKING
TALK IS
CHEAP**

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WELCOME 2019



Jeff Butcher

Welcome 2019—These are truly exciting times for men’s ministry throughout the country. If I had the time, I would write a personal thank you note to every outgoing Chapter director for a job well done, trusted servant.

Annually, January brings in a flood of Chapter and individual pledges from you. We are receiving ministry pledge checks for \$50, \$100, \$150, and even \$1,000. Additionally, several

chapters have submitted one check for every Brother. Since the Executive Board members started doing Automatic Clearing House (ACH) monthly contributions, we are now seeing several Brothers choosing this method to contribute. We are most humbled. Bless you for your personal support.

The one area in need of improvement is Chapter Annual Reports. Your submissions tell the untold story of what has been taking place at the parish level. We greatly appreciate these joyful stories. We share them with your Bishops plus others. Our labors on your behalf these last four years have placed us before audiences that have never heard of a men’s ministry. This is a small community. Good news travels quickly. Now in some circles we are no longer the best-kept secret in the church. Your financial support has positioned your Executive Board members to represent you profoundly. Our nationwide visibility should make it easier for you to recruit new members and open or reactivate chapters.

Communication is our key ingredient for success. You hold that in your hands; help us help you. We are looking for updated information on email addresses, dates of birth (to target outreach by age), phone numbers, and correct snail mail locations. Sadly, our Book of Remembrance should receive additions, too.

We plan to continue the regional meeting format. Lessons learned tell us we (leadership) should spend time on

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BLESSING & DEDICATION
OF YOUR NATIONAL OFFICE BY
THE RT. REV. TERRY WHITE,
BISHOP, DIOCESE OF KENTUCKY

620 SOUTH THIRD STREET
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
10:30 A.M., FRIDAY, MAY 17

- 1) How To Run a Meeting and when we could have them;
- 2) How to sponsor new members;
- 3) Building internal relationships;
- 4) How we attract younger men to our Chapters;
- 5) Developing event calendars for special service projects; and
- 6) Training podcasts.

If I have missed something, please drop me an email. We are here to serve you.

Please consider buying “*How to Disciple Men (Short and Sweet): 45 Proven Strategies from Experts on Ministry to Men*” Every Chapter Director, Assembly, and Diocesan Officer should read it for their leadership development. It only costs \$15.00 plus shipping and is available from our national office or from Amazon and other booksellers.

Let me wish each one of you a Rewarding 2019 on your personal spiritual journey. As a team, O Lord, serving you, we dedicate ourselves to a daily life of prayer, study, and service.

Carpe Diem,

Jeff Butcher, President
jeff.butcher@BrothersAndrew.net

TALK IS CHEAP

As I write, we are approaching Feast of the Epiphany. Rather than being at the National Office in Kentucky, I'm enjoying some days with family in a soggy Mississippi—not snow, just rain for the holidays. Epiphany has always been bittersweet for me. We have a chance to hold the hand of God in the crib as we look to the Christ child and His wonder as we all do when looking with amazement at a newborn life. With our own children, we glance away for just a moment and they are grown. It was like that with Christ. We see him in the manger and just a couple of liturgies later, and before you know it, Jesus is an adult. And after only three years of intense work, His life is snuffed out at the hands of humankind for all of humanity's redemption. That's the bittersweet for me. If only they would have sat down in true conversation rather than live in fear and outrage at such radical love. I wonder what that would have been like. How might history look, had they done that?

In recent months, I have come to adopt a new term: "recreational outrage." My own definition of the term: What happens in a society when "talk is cheap" and "conversation is absent." Social media feeds on political and social issues rampant with what reads like shouting one-sided messages. We don't see conversation, only confrontation. What has this to do with our ministry and mission? Everything. Let's have a conversation with one another about that in 2019. Let's have a conversation with our friends and perceived enemies and/or adversaries in our communities. Let's resolve to listen and appreciate where others are even when, especially when, we couldn't disagree with them more. I'm just foolish enough to believe we can find community in that. Are you?

How does this fit into our tenets of prayer, study and service? The older I get, the more I temper conversation

with the prelude of prayer, thank goodness. That leads me to do a little internal research before engaging—call it self-study, if you will. From there it leads me to a plan of service-based discipleship. "Being the hands and feet of Christ" is something we often hear praised in the community. Listening with the heart and ears of Christ isn't. When we don't listen with the ears and heart of Christ, I wonder how often we get to make our point to an issue at the expense of His? Is the point about the radical love of Christ our point as we engage in conversation or is our point expressing the recreational outrage mentality so richly engrained in today's world?



Tom Welch
Executive
Director

If we become truly intentional in meaningful conversation this year, my hope is we remember to center our hearts on the teachings of God while we are at it. Only then will we know how to work through things rather than shout about them in recreational outrage. Deuteronomy 30 reads "But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it." Let prayer, study and service-based discipleship be our guide in conversation this year, won't you?

Talk is cheap. True conversation is priceless. Wishing you more priceless moments in 2019 than you thought possible... and all of it

In His Name



the ultimate pragmatist. He came to give eternal freedom and not to release those who were in temporary human bondage. However, Brothers, because our Lord did not make any profound or lasting statements about slavery does not make it right.

Slavery has dominated the history of the United States and the history of the Episcopal Church for far too many years. In most cases, our nation and our church were complicit in the continuance of slavery. In today's modern world, we find women bonded into prostitution, children trafficked for sex and labor, and men forced to work for slave wages across the globe, and—yes—here in our backyard.

I want to encapsulate a few important dates for you, with brief descriptions, so that you may understand and appreciate the bravery of those few who have brought us to this very day in our struggle against human trafficking:

- **The 1780s** saw the first organized anti-slavery society established in Britain. 1.) [Anti-Slavery International Fact Sheet](#).
- **In 1807**, the slave trade was abolished by the British Parliament. 1.) [Anti-Slavery International Fact Sheet](#).
- **In 1839**, the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society was created, giving for the first time impetus to America's abolitionist movement. 1.) [Anti-Slavery International Fact Sheet](#).
- **In 1856**, at the Episcopal General Convention, the Episcopal Church had "nothing to do with party politics, with sectional disputes, with earthly distinctions with the wealth, the splendor and the ambition of the world." 2.) [The Summative History of the Episcopal Church Policies Regarding Slavery and Segregation, 2006](#) (Rutgers University)
- **In 1865**, the Protestant Episcopal Freedman's Commission addressed the changes that had taken place in the south after the Civil War. 2.) [The Summative History of the Episcopal Church Policies Regarding Slavery and Segregation, 2006](#) (Rutgers University)
- **In 1877**, the first Negro delegates were elected to the General Convention in West Texas and Florida. 2.) [The Summative History of the Episcopal Church Policies Regarding Slavery and Segregation, 2006](#) (Rutgers University)
- **In 1883**, the abolishment of slavery was itself abolished by the British Parliament. 1.) [Anti-Slavery International Fact Sheet](#).
- **In the 1904 and 1907 General Conventions**, a Suffragan Plan was established with restrictions. A suffragan could sit with the House of Bishops but could not vote. 2.) [The Summative History of the Episcopal Church Policies Regarding Slavery and Segregation, 2006](#) (Rutgers University)
- **In 1921**, the African Orthodox Church was formed by black Episcopal Priest, George Alexander, resulting from prejudices within the Episcopal Church. 2.) [The Summative History of the Episcopal Church Policies Regarding Slavery and Segregation, 2006](#) (Rutgers University)
- **In 1948**, the segregation of the armed forces and civil services ended. 2.) [The Summative History of the Episcopal Church Policies Regarding Slavery and Segregation, 2006](#) (Rutgers University)
- **In 1948**, Article 4 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stated that "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms." 1.) [Anti-Slavery International Fact Sheet](#).
- **In 1954**, after the Supreme Court ruling in the Brown vs. Board of Education, the Episcopal Church began to dismantle its institutional segregation policies. 2.) [The Summative History of the Episcopal Church Policies Regarding Slavery and Segregation, 2006](#) (Rutgers University)
- **In the 1958 General Convention**, a resolution was adopted that officially condemned racial prejudice and segregation in the South. 2.) [The Summative History of the Episcopal Church Policies Regarding Slavery and Segregation, 2006](#) (Rutgers University)
- **In 2000**, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA 2000) was passed into law. It is considered to be the most essential anti-trafficking law ever approved. www.fightslaverynow.org
- **On October 4, 2008**, the Episcopal Church apologized for its role in slavery.
- **In March 2018**, the U.S. Congress passed the Stop

Enabling Sex Traffickers Act. This bill holds accountable websites, such as Backpage, when they knowingly facilitate sex traffickers. polarisproject.org and info@polarisproject.org

In many places in our world, people subscribe to the enslavement of others. In the United States, the home of the “free,” we are exposed daily to the notion that some people are not as valuable as others. This narrative is usually based on race, ethnicity, and sex with the desire to enrich oneself through the subjugation and control of others. The International Labour Organization estimated in 2016 that there were 40.3 million people in forced labor of which two million are in the Americas. In the United States, because of the secretive nature of labor trafficking, it is difficult to provide an accurate number of victims; however, it is estimated to be in the tens of thousands.

Sex trafficking is an appalling crime. In the United States, it is estimated that 300,000 youth annually are at risk of sex traffickers, with one in six being trafficked. The average age of a girl trafficked is 13 and will they be asked to perform various sex acts up to 20 times daily. In a recent conversation with a trafficked victim, she contended that she was expected to produce \$2,000 to \$3,000 daily from being prostituted. If not, she was severely beaten or starved, or her life threatened. This woman subjugated her body to daily sexual abuse to generate income for her pimp’s financial gain, while she was degraded by the “johns” who paid for sex and a society that sees her as nothing more than a prostitute who could leave her enslavement if she so chose.

We men have turned a blind eye to our accountability in the treatment of women in our society but, even worse, we have enabled abusers, pimps, johns, and pornographers to capture our souls, our nation, and to damage forever the girls and women who have long suffered as sex objects. We do this through our conversations, glances, the purchase of sex and pornography, and by not teaching our male youth that women are to be respected.

I suggest to men that they consider what it is like to be chained and tortured and forced to have sex against their will. What it would be like not to have a choice as to who you are with and to feel your body violated—not once, but multiple times daily, every single day of your existence. Imagine your mother, wife, daughter or sister suffering the constant repetition of this horror. The reasons why traffickers target some while others are not, vary. These trafficked girls and women may very well be the same women we purport to love and care for, but we do little to change their sexual environment. Therefore, where they live, their economic situation, race, or ethnicity does not protect them from sexual abuse and predators. (Continued on next page.)

BROTHERS UNITE: WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

- † **Prayerfully and privately examine your own personal ideas, behaviors, and values that may be objectifying women, using scripture to reflect.**
- † **Spend some time together as Brothers talking about what you have learned about yourself and others as you have examined this issue.**
- † **Get educated. The Episcopal Public Policy Network and Office of Governmental Relations are excellent sources for information from a faith-based perspective.**
- † **Make your voice heard. The Episcopal Public Policy Network can also alert you to legislative action around this issue and give you an opportunity to mobilize calls, texts, emails, and letters to legislators in support of legislation that can impact this issue.**
- † **Lead as a Chapter in your own congregation or your Province around this issue. Create opportunities for education and dialogue.**
- † **Gather other interested or involved groups in your local community one evening for a session to determine together ways you can multiply your efforts and resources and support one another.**
- † **Use all of these awareness and education opportunities as opportunities to personally invite men into the extended work of the Brotherhood.**

I believe there are very few women who have not suffered from unwanted sexual advances. Many women have been physically and sexually abused. Maybe you know someone, family or friend, who has experienced this kind of violence. It is likely we are aware of females who have been abused or are even suffering harm today. Just possibly, we may have been the abuser. The questions we men must resolve to find the answers to are: why do we harm women, why do we seek sexual gratification illicitly, and why do we purchase and watch pornography?

Human trafficking in today's world is called "Modern Day Slavery." Slavery from the ancient times to the American Civil War to present-day slavery has one thing in common, the exploitation of many for the financial gain of a few. In the four-plus years I have been involved in the "Stop Human Trafficking" movement, I find myself writing and rewriting the same words and asking myself, "How can I break through the generations of men with the learned behavior of discounting and abusing women?" I find myself becoming angry every time I look at the statistics about the number of women and children trafficked globally and in the U.S. I find that statistics do not stir the hearts of men, no matter how shocking they are, if we are not motivated to alter the way that we view and treat women. I understand that perfectly. I am as guilty as the next man in the way I regarded women. Years ago, my favorite response came from the question, "When you see a woman what do you notice first?" I replied, "It depends on which way they are walking." It sounded cute and funny years ago and to me was an innocent statement of fact. Unfortunately, it was a statement that went straight to the heart of sexual objectification of women. As I became involved in the anti-sex trafficking movement, I spent some time reflecting on my "go to" comment years later, and what I saw about myself was disconcerting. I realized how revealing my actions and views were in promoting the abuse of women to those around me, especially my children and friends. It was impossible for me to proclaim any degree of holiness when I believed that the degradation of women was acceptable.

Learned behavior is problematic to change but not impossible. It takes desire, perseverance, support,

and occasionally professional help to alter unhealthy behavior. Recently there was an article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch religion page titled: "Look to Jesus to learn how to treat women."

Anita Anton quoted a comment from Barbara Leonhard, Oldenburg Franciscan, "Jesus refused to treat women as inferior. Given the decidedly negative cultural view of women in Jesus' time, the Gospel writers each testify to Jesus' treating women with respect, frequently responding in ways that reject cultural norms. He recognizes their dignity, their desires, and their gifts." I appreciated her comments because if we treat women with "respect," showing them the dignity they deserve and allowing them to use their God-given gifts fully, the sexual objectification of women will begin to cease, finally, after all these thousands of years. Women will finally be equal in the eyes of humankind. We can at least adhere to the path that the holiest man of all time, Jesus of Nazareth, has shown us to follow.

So, let us begin.

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The deadline is the 5th of each month.

There's No Such Thing as Coincidence at a First-Ever Brotherhood Retreat

By Conrad Jones

St. David's, Ashburn VA Brotherhood Chapter

The Brotherhood chapter at St. David's in Ashburn, Virginia, held their first-ever retreat over the last weekend in October. They chose to hold it high in the Shenandoah Mountains at [Shrine Mont Episcopal Retreat Center](#), the site of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia's outdoor cathedral, The Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, which was consecrated in 1925. Each of its stones was pulled by horse or rolled by local people from the mountain that embraces it. Please visit it if you ever pass near Orkney, Virginia.

This chapter formed recently (circa 2015) with a group of 25 men and has now more than doubled with 100% pledge-paid members. And this was actually their 100th meeting since the chapter was chartered. They held their retreat to look back and reflect on where they've been, what's worked, what needs building upon, and how they can return home and continue their mission to bring new men and boys to Christ through their prayer, study, and service commitments. Oh—and they also brought along Brotherhood Executive Director Tom Welch to not only enjoy the fellowship, but share with them from a national perspective how they can support the missions of the Brotherhood.

Along the way to the retreat, so many things happened. It started with an arrival at the mountainside center in the darkness and a pouring rain. Brothers in cars and sloshing through muddy gravel roads in the woods to find their "meeting cabin" and their individual cottages for housing made for some real challenges. Was it coincidence that their "searching" was indicative of what they would be doing all weekend during the retreat?

Their experiences of searching continued the next day when they covered sessions on improving their service, study and prayer. Was it coincidence that the scripture they studied was about the blind man Bartimaeus wanting to see or the verses about becoming more of a servant to others? It was the same scripture Brother Paul Buitrago heard on a broadcast from Joel Osteen on the way to the retreat. Or was it coincidence that there were two other church congregations at the retreat center that same weekend that had an interest in learning more about The Brotherhood of St. Andrew for their church?

The Brothers shared real, open, transparent testimonials about how Christ had come into their lives and how the Brotherhood has fanned those flames of discipleship. Was it coincidence that Brother Welch and Brother Buitrago (they had never met each other before) shared back-to-back testimonials about



how their individual random conversations in the past with men they had never met had truly nourished a spiritual and profound God moment? Could it be a coincidence that Brother Conrad Jones had the week before happened upon a Sunday morning TV broadcast of Dr. Charles Stanley speaking the words, "Fear is the absence of Faith"?

On Saturday night, the Brothers again walked through the darkness of the mountainside to find where they would have their campfire fellowship, searching and sometimes stumbling along the way, to finally find the circle of Brothers gathered around a fire ring. Was it coincidence that they had yet another circumstance of searching?

The informal nighttime gatherings in the two housing cottages provided opportunity to learn more about each other and what brought each man to find the Brotherhood. And to continue the lessons from the day into the evening, along the way discovering new ideas for reaching out to young fathers (via Faith Chest gifts) and to young men in need of mentorship with some of the more "seasoned" career men.

Then on Sunday morning, the Brothers shared together the experience of Holy Eucharist at the outdoor cathedral, with their own Associate Priest Father Will Packard assisting with the liturgy with a former classmate at seminary. Yet another coincidence?

Coincidence is the easy way we humans explain unexpected events and surprise encounters. But just because we are taken by surprise does not mean that God is. In Jeremiah 29:11, God says, "For I know the plans that I have for you, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."



God was very present that weekend in the mountains, leading us closer to each other, sometimes even as we literally stumbled around in the dark. And, God is there with our Brothers wherever we may find ourselves. We're convinced there was really no coincidence in our retreat gathering that weekend and the many connections we discovered with God and one another. Perhaps your Chapter will choose to step out in faith and nurture a similar experience in your area. You'll probably experience blessings beyond measure.

Peace be with you and live without fear.



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CREATIVE MENTORING THIS MONTH

When you have lost a loved one or otherwise find yourself alone, Valentine's Day can be a difficult time. Why not gather your parish Chapter Brothers that day (or the weekend before) and create a time of service and support?

You could...

- ♥ **Invite a small group** to share in a brunch or lunch at a local restaurant, fraternal organization such as the Elks, or a veterans' club. Even ordering food in or preparing a simple soup lunch in your parish hall could be a nice choice.
- ♥ **Think through the life situations** among men in your parish who may be experiencing a tough Valentine's time. Talk with your clergy for recommendations about who to include. Reach out to some new Brothers.
- ♥ **Consider a simple service project** such as delivering Valentine cards to your local veteran's hospital or assisted living facility.
- ♥ **Offer prayers** to honor those who have died and are missed by Brothers who loved them. If your group is very small, consider accompanying those who are grieving to the cemetery and providing a simple and inexpensive graveside tribute of a carnation and a prayer.
- ♥ **Consider hosting** a church or community-wide seminar on coping with Valentine's Day following a divorce. Invite in a local counselor and/or your clergy to offer a brief program accompanied by some refreshments. Consider praying the Daily Office as a part of the event.

Whatever you decide to do, reach out and follow up, show continued concern and care, and encourage Brothers to become an active part of your Chapter.