

## With Blood On Our Hands?



The burnt orange color of the young woman with the far off stare evokes the sense of rage that accompanies the indignation of disrespect, and the dry blood of abuse.

#211. *I have always been distressed at the lot of those who are victims of various kinds of human trafficking. How I wish that all of us would hear God's cry: "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9). Where is your brother or sister who is en-slaved? Where is the brother and sister whom you are killing each day in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution, in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labour? Let us not look the other way. There is greater complicity than we think. **The issue involves everyone!** This infamous network of crime is now well established in our cities, and many people have blood on their hands as a result of their comfortable and silent complicity.* 1.

When Pope Frances expounds '**the issue involves everyone**' he speaks a subtle and profound truth. Sometimes it appears that trafficking is widely exploited for financial gain and positive ratings in the media for entertainment when the real victims are quietly weeping for a life lost in the depths of a hell unimaginable. Yet, the good news is that this issue is less in the shadows by being a favorite topic of entertainment. Human trafficking has been around for a very long time but now the evil is coming to light. Through prayer and action, we need to surround the victims with the compassion of Christ, because every story line will not have a happy ending. The next time I am entertained by a drama involving a victim of abuse, in order that I do not become numb to this reality, I pray that I remember that for someone, somewhere, this is real, and that in some way I might be able to act instead of standing blank with blood on my hands. ***Pray for victims and their perpetrators this day and every day!***

1. APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION **EVANGELII GAUDIUM** OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS TO THE BISHOPS, CLERGY, CONSECRATED PERSONS AND THE LAY FAITHFUL ON THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL IN TODAY'S WORLD

