

## Jesus, Companion of the Trafficked

Jesus, Companion of the Trafficked,  
Every hour of the day, traffickers lurk and prey  
On the innocent and most vulnerable of our society:  
The abused and the runaway girls and boys,  
The homeless and the transgender youth,  
The migrants and the refugees.

Jesus, Companion of the Trafficked,  
Every hour of the day, they cry out in anguished prayer:  
“How long will our cries for help fall on deaf ears?  
How long will we be forgotten?”

Jesus, Companion of the Trafficked,  
Show us how to be one with our trafficked sisters and brothers.  
Breathe into us their sorrows and losses.  
Breathe into us their fears and despair.  
Breathe into us their exhaustion and hunger.  
Breathe into us their shame and humiliation.  
Breathe into us their shattered trust in humanity.  
Breathe into us their fragile hope to remain alive.

Jesus, Companion of the Trafficked,  
As we carry their suffering,  
May we be more vigilant protectors  
Of all trafficked victims and survivors.  
May people from every corner of the world  
Work to hold traffickers and consumers accountable  
For this crime of modern day slavery. Amen.

—Dianna Ortiz, O.S.U.

