

Wednesday RE Living Transformed By The Holy Spirit

Hot



I believe Josephine was given the gifts of the Spirit. She was an inspiration to those in her community. She acted in a forgiving way, like Jesus. Knowing that there are people who have truly suffered, yet thrived and been generous of spirit influences me and helps me keep on my mission to follow Jesus' footsteps.

Saint Josephine Bakhita

Josephine began her life in Darfur, born into a loving and large family. She grew up feeling safe and secure surrounded by family and friends. She did not know what suffering was.

In 1877, her life completely changed. Only 9 years old, she was captured and sold to strangers as a slave. It was here, she learned what suffering meant. She was mentally and physically abused and far away from the wonderful life she had. Life was so different for her, she no longer knew her name and took one that gave her hope - Bakhita which means 'lucky' or 'fortunate' in Arabic.

After many miserable years, in 1883, Josephine was bought by an Italian. He took her to his home and did not mistreat her. She worked as a nanny to his little daughter and Bakhita was treated well. She fell under the guidance and care of the Canossian Sisters and was introduced to God. She felt in her heart - that she had known who He was.

Eventually, Josephine was given her freedom and she chose to remain with the Sisters. She was remembered in the local community for her gentleness, calming voice and smile. She was ever cheerful, even when her last years were marked by pain and sickness. People believed she was a saint.

On 8th February 1947, Josephine Bakhita died. She left a legacy that transformation is possible through suffering. Even after many years of trials and tribulations, Bakhita said she would still forgive those that abused her as she believed she would not have found Christ, if not for how her journey had been.