

## *Freedom to Give*

Freedom to Give to others the love received from the Father. You gave this love through your gentleness and smile, the welcoming attitude you showed to those who,



attracted by your charism, sought you out. You gave it with the humiliation of telling the sorrowful stories of your life.

You, who were a slave of man first and free in Christ after, free us from our slavery.

We, too, are slaves and often through our own fault. Slaves of appearance, falsehood, pride, prejudice, of wellbeing at all costs, of social climbing, beauty, fashion, of always having to be better than others. How many difficulties, how much suffering and how much loneliness these goals often bring. Slaves of a world which seems not to want to change, which seems not to notice the suffering of others. We need something special and miraculous to break our chains: "***The love of God***". He is our starting point and point of arrival, our goal.

You came to know Our Lord late in life but you loved Him with great intensity with such passion to make up for lost time. We have always known Him; we are His children by means of our Baptism received as tiny children. But we do not always fully take advantage of this treasure. How much time we have wasted.

*From the Shrine of St. Josephine Bakhita*