

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM: FREEDOM TO BEAR WITNESS: JUNE 21 - JULY 4



During these 14 days our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power — St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year's Fortnight will focus on the "freedom to bear witness" to the truth of the Gospel.

"Keeping the spirit of the Gospel means that Catholic institutions are to bear witness in love to the full truth about the human person by providing social, charitable, and educational services in a manner that fully reflects the God-given dignity of the human person." - Archbishop William E. Lori, Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, on the "Freedom to Bear Witness"

The teaching of our Catholic faith obliges us to work together with fellow citizens for the common good of all who live in this land. That is the vision of our founding and our Constitution, which guarantees citizens of all religious faiths the right to contribute to our common life together.

Fortnight for Freedom is a political activity; it is not a partisan issue. It is not about defeating Obama or repealing the healthcare law. It is much more than the portion of the HHS Mandate that threatens our religious freedom. Fortnight for Freedom is about all challenges to religious liberty both at home and abroad.

The success of this Fortnight is vital to establishing and maintaining a new movement for religious freedom, in response to the growing range of religious freedom issues in so many areas of law, such as immigration, adoption, and disaster relief, both here and abroad.

Resources are available at www.Fortnight4Freedom.org

Help Protect International Religious Freedom by Passing H.R. 1150 Christians and Religious Minorities Suffering in Middle East and Elsewhere

The Catholic Church has long standing commitment to international religious freedom. In a June 2014 address, Pope Francis exhorted all to "recognize, guarantee, and protect religious freedom, which is a right intrinsically inherent in human nature, in man's dignity as a free being, and is also an indicator of a healthy democracy and one of the main sources of the legitimacy of the State."

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