Suggestions for Parishes

- Invite parishioners to join Bishop McManus for the **Mass for the Protection of Religious Freedom** on Thursday, **June 22** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Cathedral. Reception following with Guest Speaker Bishop Robert J. McManus.

- Include a special petition in the **Prayer of the Faithful** at each Mass.

- Distribute a **Prayer Card** for religious freedom (or print the prayer in the parish bulletin), and encourage parishioners to pray it daily. The prayer could also be prayed at weekend and daily Masses during the Fortnight, used to open parish meetings, and made available at Eucharistic adoration, etc.

- Distribute the **USCCB bulletin inserts** and encourage parishioners to read them and to visit www.fortnight4freedom.org. *(Use the downloadable graphics on the site in your parish bulletin and website!)*

- Invite a guest speaker to your parish for a **presentation** on religious freedom *(contact the Respect Life Office for referrals)*

- Encourage parishioners to offer special **prayer, fasting, or acts of reparation**. For example, meatless Fridays, a chosen day to fast, offering up Mass, Rosary, or Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc. *(visit www.usccb.org/pray)*

- Have a special parish **Holy Hour** or **Mass**, or organize day-long (or multi-day) **Eucharistic adoration**. Invite neighboring parishes to join you!

- Pray a **daily rosary** in your parish for the cause of religious liberty each day of the Fortnight.

- Present a **Catholic movie night** for members of your parish, such as “**A Man for All Seasons**” about the martyrdom of St. Thomas More, “**Becket**” about the 12th century English martyr, or “**For Greater Glory**” about the struggle for religious freedom in Mexico.

- Encourage parishioners to **read** “**Our First, Most Cherished Liberty**”, a document of the US. Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty. Publish the document’s link in the parish bulletin, or make print copies available to parishioners. *(http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/our-first-most-cherished-liberty.cfm)*

- Plan a **parish outreach event** including a meal such as a fish fry, picnic, pancake breakfast, or spaghetti supper – to raise awareness about the Fortnight; invite a speaker; distribute handouts, etc.

- Host a **study group** on “**Dignitatis Humanae**”, the groundbreaking document from the Second Vatican Council on religious liberty, using the 14-day reflection piece found at www.fortnight4freedom.org. The document marked its 50th anniversary last year.

- Organize an Independence Day **family picnic** with a special Mass to close the Fortnight for Freedom.

- Join churches nationwide by **ringing the church bells** at noon on July 4th.

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**Resources are available to help you!**

- **Prayers** for Religious Freedom, **Intercessions** for the Prayer of the Faithful, **Bulletin Inserts**, and links to pertinent Church documents can be found at:
  - www.fortnight4freedom.org
  - www.usccb.org/conscience
  - www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life

**Contact the Respect Life Office for more information.**

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**SPECIAL NOTE:**

Please notify The Catholic Free Press (cfpnews@catholicfreepress.org: 508-757-6387) and the Respect Life Office (aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org: 508-929-4311) of any events planned in your parish or cluster so that we can help in publicizing the events through calendars, email distribution lists, etc.