Notes to Bulletin Editors: Further information on the June 22 diocesan event is also available as a one-page flyer, and can be used as a bulletin insert, posted on parish bulletin boards, distributed at parish meetings, etc. Download from www.worcesterdiocese.org/fortnight-for-freedom.

Print and web graphics for use in your bulletin or parish website are available at www.fortnight4freedom.org. Click on “graphics and downloads” in the left-hand column.

If your parish is planning any special events or devotions during the Fortnight, please send brief details to the Respect Life Office so we can help to publicize the event. Email to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org.

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FOR PARISH BULLETINS:

The 6th annual Fortnight for Freedom will take place in dioceses nationwide from June 21, the vigil of the feast of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, through July 4, Independence Day. All are invited to join Bishop Robert J. McManus for a special Mass for the Protection of Religious Freedom at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22 at St. Paul’s Cathedral. The Mass will be followed by a light reception in the Cenacle with a presentation by Bishop McManus on this year’s theme, Freedom for Mission. We look forward to all our parishes being represented on June 22! For more information contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311 or visit www.fortnight4freedom.org.

OR:

Please join Bishop McManus for the 6th annual Mass for the Protection of Religious Freedom at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at St. Paul’s Cathedral in observance of the national Fortnight for Freedom, a 14-day period of prayer, education, and action for the protection of our fundamental right to religious liberty. The Mass will be followed by a light reception downstairs in the Cenacle and a presentation by Bishop McManus on this year’s theme, Freedom for Mission. All are welcome! For more information on the Fortnight for Freedom visit www.fortnight4freedom.org and www.worcesterdiocese.org/fortnight-for-freedom.

Other items you might like to use in parish bulletins before, during and/or after the Fortnight:

What is the Fortnight for Freedom?
From June 21 through July 4, Catholics nationwide will take part in the sixth annual “Fortnight for Freedom”, a 14-day period of prayer, education, and action for the protection of our fundamental right to religious liberty. The Fortnight for Freedom was first initiated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty in 2012, in response to the government’s HHS mandate forcing employers, even Catholic employers and private business owners of good conscience, to provide abortifacient drugs, contraception, and sterilization in their employees’ health plans or face exorbitant fines. For the Catholic Church, our many ministries of education, healthcare, and charitable works continue to be at stake. Many people of all faiths have spoken out strongly against this violation of
conscience rights. Currently 105 cases with over 300 plaintiffs have been filed against the mandate (visit www.becketlaw.org to learn more about these cases). The theme for this year’s Fortnight for Freedom is Freedom for Mission.

Visit www.fortnight4freedom.org to learn more about the very real and current threats to our religious liberty and rights of conscience and what you can do about it. You can learn more about Fortnight for Freedom events taking place locally in our parishes and diocese at www.worcesterdiocese.org/fortnight-for-freedom.

You can help to defend religious freedom by joining the U.S. Bishops’ Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Freedom! Visit www.usccb.org/pray to learn more about how you can make a difference all year long. Sign up to receive weekly prayer intentions by email or text message, and join fellow Catholics throughout the country in prayer, education, and action involving the most fundamental issues of our day.

Our conscience rights are at stake! Stand with Sr. Jane Marie, Cathy, and Christine, three courageous women who have suffered for their deeply held religious convictions and testified before Congress advocating for the protection of our rights of conscience. Watch the 3-minute video at www.usccb.org/conscience and learn more about how you can help defend religious liberty. Contact your representatives in Congress to support the Conscience Protection Act of 2017 through the action alert center at www.humanlifeaction.org.

Receive pro-life and religious freedom news by email! Stay up-to-date with the critical issues of our day and what’s happening locally on pro-life and religious freedom issues by subscribing to the Diocesan Respect Life Office’s e-mail list. To subscribe, send an email to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org and ask to be added to the list.