



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

...is a fitting time to review these facts, the basis of the right of each American to live his faith free from government prohibitions.

In 1953, Pope Pius XII stated, "We belong to the Church militant; and She is militant because on earth the powers of darkness are ever restless to encompass Her destruction."

1. Our Creator, not a king, emperor or elected government, is the source of our unalienable rights.... Declaration of Independence
2. The Pilgrims came to America, not for religious freedom, but to escape religious persecution.
3. In our colonies only certain Christian denominations were chartered or allowed. No one could preach or practice a faith not included in the charter. Christians persecuted other Christians over denominational differences.
4. By the time of the founding the colonists saw that religious persecution in the colonies was the same evil that had caused them to flee to America.
5. Our founders knew the history of their forefathers of centuries of religious dictates. They did not want to repeat the mistakes of government-dictated religion because history was clear ... it always led to tyranny and persecution.
6. Our founders were men of faith who believed in the Bible as the greatest of all books and source of moral knowledge...and believed in a final judgment where each would stand before his Creator and answer for what he had done and he had failed to do.
7. Therefore, they believed that each man must be free to follow his conscience. John Leland, Baptist minister and Founding Father, said, "If government can answer for individuals at the day of judgment, let men be controlled by it in religious matters; otherwise let men be free."
8. Of the five freedoms in the first amendment of the Constitution, religious freedom is first and asserts a robust exercise of faith and morals in every part of our lives free from government intrusion. Supporting religious freedom are the other four 1st amendment freedoms: freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly and of redress of grievances.

9. The United States is not a “Christian Nation”, that would be a theocracy, but is founded on the Judeo-Christian ethic which says all men are created equal and must be free to follow their conscience in the service of their God.
10. “The wall of separation between church and state” was a phrase used by Pres. Thomas Jefferson to assure the Danbury Baptists that their rights of conscience and free exercise came from God, not from government. This “wall” protects individual conscience.
11. Tolerance is not a virtue, per Abp. Chaput. The toleration of extreme evil is itself evil.
12. “There is no other subject on which the average mind is so much confused as the subject of tolerance and intolerance. Tolerance applies only to persons, but never to principles. Intolerance applies only to principles, but never to persons.” – Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
13. Elie Wiesel, Nobel Laureate and Holocaust Survivor said, “We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” Silence is consent.

- We must learn to never apologize or be ashamed of Christ, the Catholic Church, the Bible, our faith and religious practices. The supposed tolerance that requires people of faith to be silenced is a lie and is the worst of intolerance.
- If we silence ourselves, self-censor our speech for fear of offending, we will place the strongest shackles on America’s liberties. Christ told us that to follow Him we must pick up his cross. Christ promised us suffering for his sake.
- EVERY DENIAL OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY/ FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE MUST BE ANSWERED.
Facts and truth spoken with patience and kindness but with confidence and knowledge...repeated often, are the education our culture and our own sphere of influence must hear that they may learn in order to save themselves.

We dare not grow weary of defending the freedom God gives us. Coraggio!

Learn and Teach Others, so that Your Children May Be Free to Live Their Faith

www.CatholicsforFreedomofReligion.org

<https://www.nyscatholic.org>

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<https://www.becketlaw.org/>

<https://firstliberty.org/>

<https://www.heritage.org/>

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/>