

**Focus on Religious Freedom**  
From Catholics for Freedom of Religion  
[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

**Religious Freedom Day - Coming Soon!**

"Faith is embedded in the history, spirit, and soul of our Nation. On Religious Freedom Day, we celebrate the many faiths that make up our country, and we commemorate the anniversary of the passing of the State Law that shaped and secured our cherished legacy of religious liberty.

**"Our forefathers, seeking refuge from religious persecution, believed in the eternal truth that freedom is not a gift from government, but a sacred right from Almighty God.** On the coattails of the American Revolution, on January 16, 1786, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom.... these principles served as the inspiration for the First Amendment.

"Today, Americans from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds remain steadfast in a commitment to the inherent values of faith, honesty, integrity, and patriotism. Our Constitution and laws guarantee Americans the right not just to believe as they see fit, but to freely exercise their religion." (excerpts from Pres. Trump's 2018 Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day)

**Unfortunately, much of the world does not experience America's religious freedoms.**

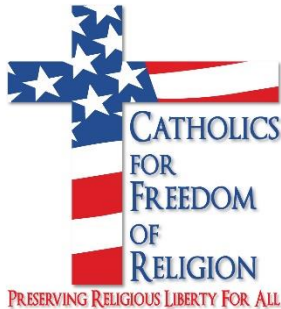
- \* 24% of the world's countries have serious restrictions on religious freedoms.
- \* 74% of the world's population lives in these countries.
- \* 80% of people worldwide hold a religious belief.

**The suppression of religious freedom and freedom of expression can lead to violence. Respect for religious freedom reinforces respect for freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.**

(federalregister.gov; state.gov; lds.org; aclu.org)

***"A robust freedom is ... the freedom to live one's religion or belief in a legal, political, and social environment that is tolerant, respectful, and accommodating of diverse beliefs."*** Elder D.Todd Christofferson, Church of LDS

**Shortened Version of this Bulletin Item is below:**



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