



## Focus on Religious Freedom

### Coming Soon! National Religious Freedom Day

Jan.16, National Religious Freedom Day, Highlights the Freedom to Choose Life

*"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."*

*January 16, 2018, Presidential Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day*

"Each year, since 1993, the President declares January 16th to be Religious Freedom Day and calls upon Americans to observe this day through appropriate events and activities in homes, schools, and places of worship.

"The day is the anniversary of the passage of the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom in 1786. Thomas Jefferson drafted the statute and considered it one of his greatest achievements....

"The men who drafted the U.S. Constitution leaned heavily on Jefferson's statute in establishing the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom. Today, that protection is as important as ever." <sup>(1)</sup>

([gogateways.org/religious freedom day](http://gogateways.org/religious-freedom-day) (1); [religiousfreedomday.com](http://religiousfreedomday.com); [nationaltoday.com](http://nationaltoday.com); [cffor.org](http://cffor.org))

### Happening Now: Prayer from U.S. Catholic Bishops

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Freedom of Religion guarantees the freedom of conscience and free exercise of faith which empowers us to live our beliefs such as the choice for life. Taxpayers, including health care providers, cannot be forced to provide goods and services which violate their sincerely held religious beliefs. The Dobbs case, now before the Supreme Court, will affirm or deny freedom of conscience.

Regarding the Dobb's case, Abp. William E. Lori, chairman of the USCCB'S Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued the following statement: "In the United States, abortion takes the lives of over 600,000 babies every year. **Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health** could change that. We pray that the Court will do the right thing and allow states to once again limit or prohibit abortion, and in doing so protect millions of unborn children and their mothers from this painful, life-destroying act. We invite all people of good will to uphold the dignity of human life by joining us in prayer and fasting for this important case.

([www.usccb.org/news/2021](http://www.usccb.org/news/2021))

*"Only in prayer - prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and souls - will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life." ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))*

**Please join Catholics for Freedom of Religion in prayer for the success of the annual March for Life on Jan. 21, in Washington D.C.**