



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Stewarding Religious Freedom: A Privilege and a Responsibility

In 2013 when volunteers from Catholics for Freedom of Religion began sharing the facts of 1st Amendment religious freedom and speaking about the denials and subversion of that freedom, we were met with some Catholics agreeing strongly that religious freedom was at risk. Other Catholics suspected problems with religious freedom and wanted to learn more and act to preserve religious freedom, but most Catholics insisted that because they could go to church on Sunday, there was no problem with religious freedom...nothing to see and no reason to be concerned.

A decade later the denials of religious freedom have expanded to faithful Americans being derided and disrespected by authority figures whose lies and distortions are obvious and do great harm. We are painted as harming women by opposing the destruction of pre-born life, mocked to the point of sacrilege in the media and the public square, investigated by the FBI for being traditional, tracked by the Treasury Dept. for purchasing religious texts, Bibles, guns and merchandise from certain retailers and contributing to law firms supporting life and religious freedom. Our churches and shrines are vandalized with no perpetrators caught while peaceful pro-life protestors are punished with extreme fines and imprisonment. And there is more.

In 2013 Richard Doerflinger, then Associate Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the USCCB wrote about the political forces injecting themselves into the churches and lives of Catholics. He wrote, "At that point we must resist, or we will have nowhere to go with our faith except the hidden resources of our own minds. "Politics" of an especially intolerant kind will take over everything else." Jesus said, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Doerflinger concluded, "Every once in a while, we may have to remind Caesar that we don't owe him our souls."

Read Doerflinger's complete remarks here: <https://tinyurl.com/kza4wckj>

*Proverbs 16:3 **Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.***