

## Focus on Religious Freedom

*If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free,  
it is the responsibility of every American to be informed." Thomas Jefferson*

### Advocating for Religious Freedom for All

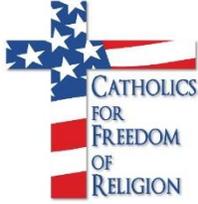
As both religious freedom and personal freedom are being threatened or denied in businesses, the military, health care, schools, and churches, a new national group has formed to monitor religious liberty in the U.S.

**The National Committee for Religious Freedom** was launched on January 18, 2022, by Sam Brownback, former U.S. ambassador for international religious freedom from 2018-2020, who said that any weakening of the fundamental right to religious liberty in the U.S. will have detrimental effects overseas. A number of religious leaders joined the committee that plans to organize nationally in each of the 50 states to "conduct educational campaigns about the necessity and the beauty of this sacred human right. ... Sadly, the human right of religious freedom is under attack," said Brownback, who also served as governor and senator from Kansas. <sup>(1)</sup>

Religious freedom is "being attacked by cultural and political elites who demand that religion be removed from our public life," said Thomas Farr, President of the **Religious Freedom Institute**. They "defame as bigots and haters those with whom they disagree on matters of religion and public policy and public morality." <sup>(2)</sup>

This new group compliments the work of **Catholics for Freedom of Religion (CFFR)**, founded in 2012, with its mission as a grassroots, lay ministry, to teach the facts of the First Amendment and religious freedom. "We strive to educate every generation of Americans about our Freedom of Religion ... how rare it is, how dearly it was purchased for us and how quickly it can be lost." This right includes the right to free exercise of conscience in every area of our lives. "If we do not understand what freedom of religion correctly means, it can be eased away from us one word and one regulation at a time. We would forfeit what God has provided and the Constitution has protected," wrote Barbara Samuells, president of CFFR. <sup>(3)</sup>

*"It seems there is a real danger to religious freedom now in our country - mostly because people aren't serious about religion, or religious freedom." Archbishop Charles Chaput*



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(aleteia.org, 1/25/22(1); deseret.com, 1/19/22; copticssolidarity.org, 1/26/22.  
Catholics for Freedom of Religion mission statement)

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