Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

"The age of casual Catholicism is over; the age of Heroic Catholicism has begun. We can no longer be Catholics by accident but instead we must be Catholics by conviction."

-Fr. Terrence Henry, TOR, 2014

Fifteen years ago our government imposed a birth control mandate on the employee health plans of all employers, including religious institutions like Notre Dame, Religious groups like the Little Sisters of the Poor and secular businesses like Hobby Lobby. All the major religious leaders plus millions of Americans were shocked by this blatant and egregious denial of America's First Amendment religious freedom.

The clergy in our country voiced their objections and began efforts to stop this denial of the rights of conscience which forced every American employer, no matter their deeply held religious beliefs, to provide birth control, sterilization, and abortifacients to their employees.

Some unexpected heroes stepped forward to take on the government mandate. In the diocese of Rockville Centre, NY, with the encouragement of then Bishop William F. Murphy, hundreds of lay Catholics came together as Catholics for Freedom of Religion (CFFOR.org) and spent years learning the details of religious freedom and teaching it to fellow laity. Their time, effort, determination and prayers assisted many thousands of Catholics of all ages to see the danger of government interference in matters of religious conscience, to educate others and to act!

Their efforts were and are heroic! More heroes step forward each day in our public schools, universities, Catholic media, and behind our pulpits. Sometimes they stand and speak and act alone. Sometimes family supports them. Sometimes they ask for help from a law firm which defends religious liberty. Support them…the Catholics who are openly and proudly evangelizing their faith in spite of the scorn, ridicule and outright threats of a secular culture.

Powerful Documentary Available: "Religious Liberty Under Siege"

At www.Catholicleague.org a new documentary details how ordinary Americans have had their religious rights abused by government. Hosted by Bill Donohue, President, the Catholic League.