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## Focus on Religious Freedom

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### God or Your Job?

#### Supreme Court Deliberating Case of Christian Postal Worker with Major implications for religious-liberty rights in the U.S.

By: Peter Pinedo/ CNA    **"In 2019, Gerald Groff resigned from his position with the U.S. Postal Service** after years of allegedly being harassed, targeted and disciplined for declining to work Sundays so that he could abide by the Third Commandment, to "keep holy the Sabbath day." Groff then sued USPS for violating his religious rights. After his claims were denied by both a Pennsylvania district court and the 3rd Circuit Court, the Supreme Court of the United States agreed to take up his appeal on April 18, 2023.

Groff is an evangelical Christian missionary and a former Pennsylvania mailman. In a Tuesday interview with First Liberty Institute, Groff explained that he has a deeply held religious conviction that the Sabbath is "not just about going to church, it's about obeying the Lord and putting the entire day aside to honor and glorify him."

According to Groff, he was repeatedly harassed and intimidated by his bosses because of his request to not work on Sundays. After facing escalating disciplinary action and the sense that he was on the brink of termination, Groff resigned from his position with the postal service in 2019 rather than waiting to be fired. Groff sued USPS in the federal District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, saying his right to practice his religion had been violated."

**The Supreme Court's opinion is expected around the end of June.**

#### ***Third Commandment: Catechism of the Catholic Church***

*"Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God;"*

#### ***First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America:***

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;"*