



Focus on Religious Freedom

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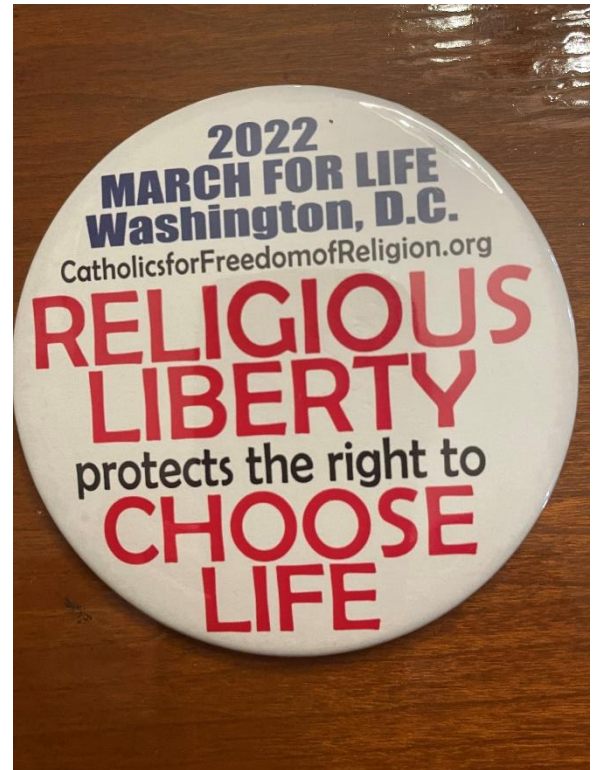
Religious Liberty Protects Life

The completion of another well-attended and enthusiastic March for Life in Washington, D.C. sustains our hope for a future where all life is cherished and protected. The approach to protecting life on a state by state basis, in keeping with our Constitution, calls for different strategies but does not change the ultimate goal nor diminish our determination.

Religious Liberty, the right of each American to choose his faith and to exercise that faith freely, is the most critical support for the ability to make the choice for life. Denial of the freedom of conscience that is religious liberty means that citizens, as we too often see, are forced to provide products and services abhorrent to their religious beliefs...taxes can be used to fund abortions, transgender surgeries, abortion inducing drugs, euthanasia, etc.

When the Board of Directors of Catholics for Freedom of Religion (CFFR) attended a conference in Washington D.C. several years ago, we met the President of the March for Life, Jeanne Mancini. When we explained our volunteers' work to teach and strengthen religious freedom, Jeanne responded that pro-life advocates should better understand the role of religious freedom in preserving life.

She urged us to attend the next March for Life and reserved an exhibit table for CFFR where we could offer materials and educate attendees at the march. That began busy years of planning and then a whirlwind trip to D.C. to set up our exhibit, display the hand knit hats we offered free of charge to marchers and distribute the souvenir buttons. Five thousand buttons were added to students' hats each year as they marched for Life! We shared the buttons, explained the importance of religious liberty to choosing life and provided materials to read and share.



**“The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time:
the hand of force may destroy, but cannot disjoin them.” – Thomas Jefferson**