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## Focus on Religious Freedom

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

### Freedom of Religion and Catholic Schools

**Annual Catholic Schools Week: Jan. 25 – Jan. 31, 2026**

Catholic schools are a critical part of the exercise of religious freedom. The right to choose a faith based educational environment for our children is protected by the first amendment's free exercise clause. In addition to the establishment clause which prohibits government from choosing one religion over another, the free exercise clause asserts that Congress shall not prohibit the free exercise of religion.

Parents are the primary teachers and essential moral educators of their children. That responsibility, however, is increasingly burdened by our culture's descent into secularism where the individual's own satisfaction and happiness is life's primary goal.

Parents can focus on their family as a constant example of Catholic love and support for each other, but our children have unmistakable daily encounters with a majority of fellow Americans whose own satisfaction is the deciding factor for their behavior.

Catholic school students spend impressionable years in the company of teachers and students whose faith guides their education in morals and academics. The Catholic school experience often results in better academic achievement, higher ethics standards and the choice of a career with the common good as a goal.

The freedom to teach our faith to Americans of all ages, as well as our own children, is one of America's unique supports of religious liberty. Each of us can encourage and strengthen Catholic education by donating time and funding to our local Catholic school and by learning and supporting the school's activities and goals.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/4zpj2w88>    <https://tinyurl.com/837v7yn4>

"A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students become saints."  
- Pope Benedict XVI