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## Focus on Religious Freedom

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Blessed be Jesus in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

7,000 Catholics in St. Paul, MN walked 4.5 miles on May 27 in a joyous, prayerful Eucharistic procession. Bishops along with 150 priests, first communicants, seminarians, parish groups and families of many ethnicities, ages and number filled the wide boulevard for blocks as they moved with prayer and singing along the route. This public exercise of faith was part of the ongoing National Eucharistic Pilgrimage which includes processions large and small along four different nation-wide routes leading to Indianapolis for the 10<sup>th</sup> National Eucharistic Congress July 10-12.

Americans of every faith are protected by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment of our Bill of Rights to believe as their conscience dictates and to freely exercise that faith. In spite of the Constitutional assurance of religious freedom, in the past four years there have been 421 attacks on Catholic churches in the United States. Churches in 42 states have been damaged or destroyed by arson, had statues defiled and smashed, windows broken, and exteriors sprayed with graffiti. Sometimes there have been disruptions of ongoing Masses in Catholic churches. Only around 25% of these attacks have resulted in even one arrest.

As the four Eucharistic procession pilgrims travel to Indianapolis, we can follow their progress and pray for their safety. Also, we can renew in each parish our understanding of the meaning and importance of the Eucharist in the lives of each of us and our shared life in the Catholic Church.

**Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/mryfkyrd>    <https://tinyurl.com/2m7nbct4>  
<https://tinyurl.com/bde79364>**