



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Thinking about 1st Amendment Religious Liberty after the Jan.16 USCCB's Annual Report on the State of Religious Liberty in the United States

In response to the United States Bishops' concerns about religious liberty in our Nation, Catholics can support their efforts and follow the God given charism to the laity of taking our faith into the public square by learning the facts and rights of our Constitutional freedoms of conscience and religion.

The 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is direct and definitive.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The concerns of the bishops and millions of Americans originate in a culture which now marginalizes faith and religion, shows growing contempt and intolerance for people of faith, tolerates unsolved crimes of vandalism on hundreds of churches and pregnancy centers and has not stood up as one people to condemn the FBI's investigation of Catholics attending the Traditional Latin Mass. Most Americans are unaware that this administration has proposed a Health and Human Services regulation which the bishops reported would force doctors to perform transgender surgeries and may also include a mandate to perform abortions.

An added concern reported since the bishops' report of Jan. 16, is that the House Judiciary Committee revealed documents in which FinCEN (the U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Unit) asked financial institutions to track customer's transactions for the purchase of religious texts, including the Bible as well as guns, travel tickets, purchases at Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops, etc. FinCEN said those purchases could be "extremist indicators."

Read here: <http://tinyurl.com/5dwccjn9> <http://tinyurl.com/4b3ku763> <http://tinyurl.com/3yfvc8b>

"Nothing is more dreaded than the national government meddling with religion."
- John Adams