



Focus on Religious Freedom

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“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state.” Dr. Martin Luther King

As we watch the process of the peaceful transfer of power following this presidential election, we sometimes hear politicians and citizens referring to God and providence and we hear prayers at various ceremonies. Because we are an exceptional nation, the only to be founded on gifts from our Creator, the natural rights of liberty and freedom, our founders knew America must remain a moral and religious people if these liberties were to thrive.

Before the founding of our nation, the men and women who met to determine the path to take toward victory over oppression routinely began their deliberations with prayer. The only uncertainty was which religious sect's prayer should be used.

George Washington prepared his troops with military prowess and also in spiritual matters. He appointed chaplains and directed the officers to lead the men in prayer. He ordered Sunday rest and church attendance to nourish the faith of his troops.

Today's inclusion of prayer before each session of Congress can be traced back to the colonial assemblies, the Second Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention

CFFR provides resources for learning and sharing the importance of religion in our nation:

Catholics For Freedom of Religion (CFFR) is dedicated to educating all Americans about the facts of First Amendment religious freedom - what it is, how dearly it was purchased for us and how quickly it can be lost. Through education, prayer and inspiration, each American is empowered to act, according to his conscience, to preserve religious liberty. CFFR has developed the following materials and programs to assist in this goal:

Empower Our Children: Students of Faith Our lesson empowers students, parents, and teachers by revealing that "Public Schools are not God-Free Zones!"

Student Video and Guide [at www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

Educational Bulletin Items: Focus on Religious Freedom Emailed weekly to parishes and individuals upon request through email to info@CatholicsforFreedomofReligion.org

Prayer for our country: Rosary for America Praying for the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of America, to protect each state and guide our leaders in accordance with our Judeo-Christian principles and the principles of our founders. Printable version at www.cffor.org

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