



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Religious Freedom Week: *Witnesses to Hope* June 22 – June 29, 2025

***The religion, then, of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man;
and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate.”
- James Monroe, Address to the Virginia General Assembly, June 20, 1785***

As the Catholic Church’s annual Religious Freedom Week draws to a close, each of us can choose to go forward making a difference in the preservation of America’s religious freedom. Around us we experience a nation and world where morals and religion are increasingly disregarded as tiresome and irrelevant. However, we Catholics know the presence of God in our daily lives is the only source of real love, satisfaction and happiness and is the path to salvation.

To strengthen the right of religious freedom we can:

- Educate ourselves about the founders’ belief that freedom of conscience was necessary to support a moral and religious citizenry capable of using America’s extensive personal liberties for the good of all.
- Support the teaching that our liberties come from our Creator, not from government.
- Explain to fellow Americans that “separation of church and state” is not a law...is not in the Constitution...but is a statement made by Pres. Thomas Jefferson acknowledging that conscience and the practice of religion are the choice of the individual and the state is not to interfere.
- Advise parents and children of the Department of Education’s guidelines to Students’ Rights in public schools at <https://tinyurl.com/52uj49hs>
- Read and print weekly articles about religious freedom at www.cffor.org then print and share with family and friends

***“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.”
- Edmund Burke***