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News and resources from the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty



## Free to Serve USCCB Religious Liberty News

*"We are Catholics, We are Americans"*

December 2015

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### Speak Up for Conscience Rights!

#### Stand with Cathy



Cathy Genzon-DeCarlo, RN, was forced by her employer to participate in a late-term abortion against her deeply-held pro-life beliefs - a major violation of her conscience rights. [Watch the video.](#)

Speak up! [Urge Congress to support the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act today!](#)

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## **50th Anniversary of *Dignitatis Humanae* The Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Religious Liberty**

December 7, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of *Dignitatis Humanae*. With this declaration, the Church teaches about the nature of freedom, truth, and the relationship between Church and state. It is one of the most important documents that the Second Vatican Council produced. [Learn more.](#)

Go deeper! Bishop Daniel Flores gave a talk at Notre Dame, which takes a more in-depth look at the Declaration and its context. [Check it out on his blog.](#)

Religious freedom is more than a right. It poses a challenge. The Declaration on Religious Liberty makes demands on each and every one of us, for we are all called to a life of holiness, a life of seeking and living the truth about God. Read Aaron Weldon's reflection on [the challenge of religious freedom.](#)

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## ***Dignitatis Humanae* and the Freedom to Serve**

**By Archbishop William Lori**

During Pope Francis's visit to the United States this fall, the Holy Father highlighted the [role of religious freedom](#) in American life. On the South Lawn of the White House, Pope Francis [urged](#) American Catholics "to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it."

And in Philadelphia, the Holy Father gave an [impassioned speech](#) devoted to religious liberty in which he said, "At the heart of [religious traditions'] spiritual mission is the proclamation of the truth and dignity of the human person and all human rights."

Pope Francis repeatedly emphasized that the heart of religious freedom is the dignity of the human person. [Read more...](#)

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*Non datur libertas sine veritate.*