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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"*

January 2016

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### New and Notable

#### **Opposing religious discrimination against refugees**

Commenting on recent concerns about terrorism, Archbishop William Lori [expressed concerns about denying entry into the country based solely on religious affiliation](#). He [reiterated these concerns in a later interview](#), saying that such a policies deny human dignity and religious freedom.

#### **Little Sisters reach the Supreme Court**

The Little Sisters of the Poor urged the Supreme Court to protect them from \$70 million dollars in government fines for refusing to violate their Catholic faith.

Mark Rienzi, Senior Counsel of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty says, "The Little Sisters should not have to fight their own government to get an exemption it has already given to thousands of other employers, including big companies like Exxon and Pepsi Cola Bottling Company." As Sr. Loraine Marie Maguire, Mother Provincial of the Little Sisters of the Poor puts it, "We perform this loving ministry because of our faith and cannot possibly choose between our care for the elderly poor and our faith, and we shouldn't have to." [Read more...](#)

#### **USCCB General Counsel files amicus brief challenging HHS Mandate**

"If the petitioners abide by their religious beliefs, they face the loss of the ability

to sponsor health coverage for their employees and millions of dollars in fines, threatening financial ruin. No one benefits from such an outcome - not the organizations, their donors, their clients, or their employees," wrote Anthony R. Picarello, Jeffrey Hunter Moon, Michael F. Moses and Hillary E. Byrnes of USCCB's Office of General Counsel. [Read more...](#)

### **Keeping faith in politics**

Cardinal Timothy Dolan reminds us that election year is no time to give in. "We believers cannot succumb to cynicism about politics. An interest and participation in the democratic process is a duty for us."

[Read more...](#)

### **50 years after *Dignitatis Humanae***

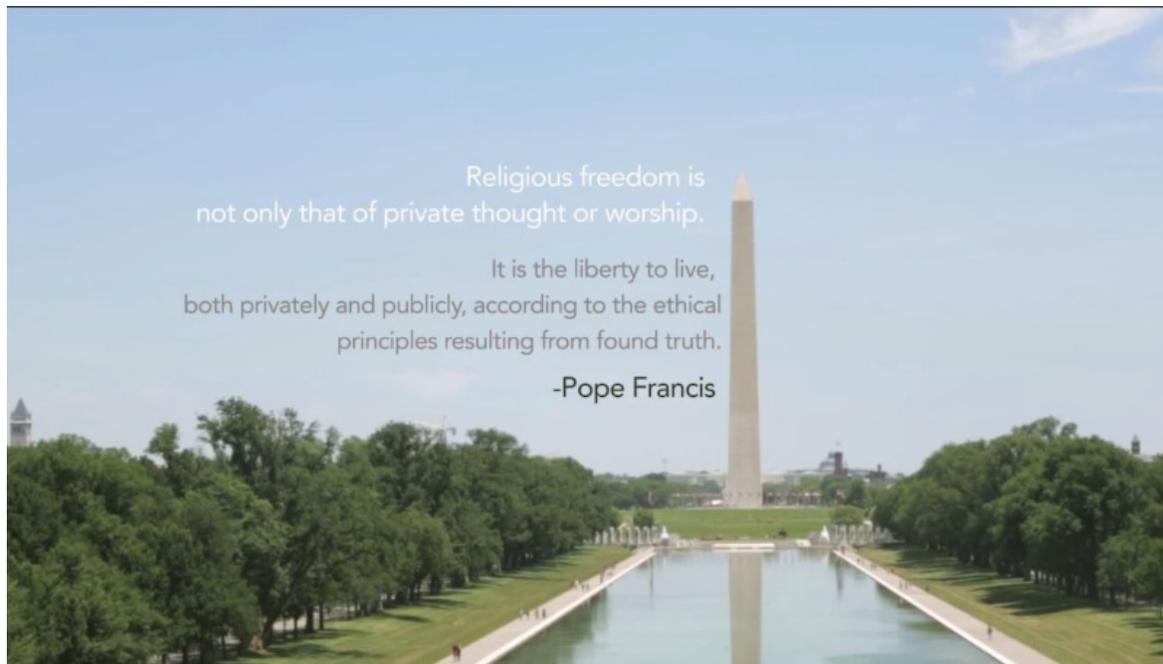
"Fifty years later, ... there is a deeper understanding of what *Dignitatis Humanae* means by 'freedom' - it is not license, but responsibility." Emily Huezco gets [a Vatican II insider's perspective on religious freedom today](#).

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## **Video**

### **What is Religious Freedom?**



Religious freedom is not only that of private worship. This [4 minute video](#) features stories of the importance of religious freedom for institutions that perform

the works of mercy - educating children, feeding the hungry, and healing the sick.

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*Non datur libertas sine veritate.*