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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"*

July 2016  
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### New and Notable

#### Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Lori to Congress: Government's Coercion on Abortion Needs Immediate Remedy

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan and Archbishop William E. Lori - as chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities and Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, respectively - called for immediate action by the U.S. House of Representatives to enact the Conscience Protection Act of 2016. [Read the full text of the letter.](#)

**Take Action Today! Tell Congress to Enact the Conscience Protection Act**  
Now is the time to [contact your representatives to urge them to co-sponsor and work to enact the Conscience Protection Act of 2016](#). Please tell your members to uphold the right of conscientious objection to abortion by enacting this much-needed legislation. The bill contains the policy of what in past years has been called the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA). [Take action now!](#)

#### Fortnight for Freedom 2016 a Great Success

Thanks to Stonyhurst College and the Knights of Columbus, thousands of people had the opportunity to encounter Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher during the Fortnight for Freedom. Check out these stories from the Fortnight:

[At opening of Fortnight for Freedom, relics resonate with Harford parishioner](#)

[Relics of English martyrs draw crowds in Minnesota as part of religious freedom push](#)

[Catholics pack into St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix for 'Fortnight for Freedom' Mass, saints' relics](#)

[St. Thomas More's bone, half a tooth come to Los Angeles](#)

[At closing Mass, people encouraged to pray, act for religious freedom](#)

### **USCCB Chairmen Urge Support For The 'First Amendment Defense Act'**

Urging support for the First Amendment Defense Act Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, issued the following statement:

Today the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will hold a hearing on the First Amendment Defense Act (FADA). The USCCB has been vocal in support of this legislation, as it would provide a measure of protection for religious freedom at the federal level. [Read more...](#)

### **'This law effectively targets religion'**

Archbishop William Lori writes in Our Sunday Visitor that the Supreme Court's decisions on Washington state pharmacy case and Texas abortion law show that the 'dogmas of the sexual revolution trump all other rights,' including that of faith. [Read the full article!](#)

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## **Video**

### **The Right to Religious Freedom**



SACROSANCTUM OECUMENICUM CONCILIUM VATICANUM II

DECLARATIO DE LIBERTATE RELIGIOSA

DECRETUM DE ACTIVITATE MISSIONALI ECCLESIAE

DECRETUM DE PRESBYTERORUM MINISTERIO ET VITA

DECRETUM DE ACTIVITATE MISSIONALI ECCLESIAE

DECRETUM DE PRESBYTERORUM MINISTERIO ET VITA

CONSTITUTIO PASTORALIS DE ECCLESIA

IN MUNDO HUIUS TEMPORIS

Ego + Michael C. O'Neill, Ordinarius Regimontensis  
Ego + J.C. van Nieuwenburg, Archiepiscopus - Episcopus  
Hollandsche Landen, Plakuit  
Ego + Fr. Raphael Perotti, Archiepiscopus - Episcopus  
→ Ego + Anselmus Lepore, Arch. Tit. S. Pancratii in Pignora  
→ Ego procurator ad quos Augustinus Guinardus, Episcopus Tit.  
Ego + Regidius Tagliozzi, Arch. Tit. Myrensis

[Find out more](#) about what the Catholic Church teaches on religious freedom, including the groundbreaking Declaration on Religious Freedom (*Dignitatis Humanae*) from the Second Vatican Council.

Let's Talk! Small community gatherings are a great, simple way to build the life of our Church. They are also important for a healthy civil society. [Here are some ideas for using the new video to kick start a small-group conversation about religious freedom.](#)

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*Non datur libertas sine veritate.*