

Non datur libertas sine veritate.

Vol. IV, No. 10

Dear sisters and brothers,

May the peace of Jesus Christ and the love of the Holy Spirit be with you!

During this time of year, we enter into one of the busy seasons in the life of the Church in the United States. Soon, we will celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls). Then, we celebrate Thanksgiving, the [Solemnity of Christ the King](#), and before we know it, we are into Advent and then Christmas. It can all seem like a whirlwind. May I ask something of you in the midst of this busy time? During the USCCB General Assembly, November 12-15, would you pray that as a body of bishops, we will act with wisdom, courage, and justice in response to the abuse scandals that have brought and continue to bring so much harm to the people of God? If we are to be true shepherds, it will be because of the help of God's grace.

Thank you for all the ways that you carry out the mission of the Church in the world!

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in the Lord,
Most Reverend Joseph Kurtz
Archbishop of Louisville
Chair, Committee for Religious Liberty

November 25 is the Solemnity of Christ the King

In 2018, the Church faces pressures from without and crisis from within. The Solemnity reminds the faithful that Christ



reigns as king of the entire world forever. [Let us rededicate ourselves this year to recognizing the reign of Jesus Christ](#) and his Sacred Heart in every aspect of our lives.

Resources are available at www.usccb.org/freedom.

God's Servant First Blog: Religious Freedom - A Strategy for Security

By Daniel Philpott

Religious freedom advocates face this predicament: We fervently believe that our cause fosters justice and human dignity yet find that these qualities alone do little to persuade officials in the State Department, Defense Department, National Security Council, or the White House to make promoting religious freedom a high priority. In Washington, only the national interest talks. [Read more.](#)

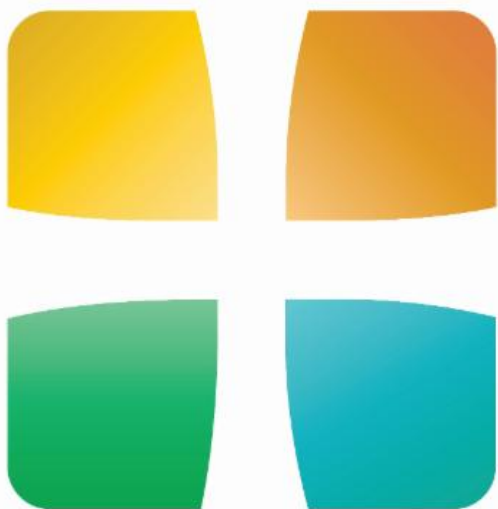
First Freedom Podcast

On Episode 19 of the First Freedom Podcast, Meghan Goodwin and Lucas Koach join Aaron and Mary to talk about religious freedom violations in Nigeria, Burma, and the Middle East, and some ways that the U.S. bishops are responding. [Check it out!](#)



Masterpiece Cakeshop Case Drew \$500k in Grants from Religious Freedom Foes

"We are losing our sense of civic friendship in our communities. Too often, activists seek to use the law to punish those they disagree with in an effort to create uniformity." [Read more.](#)



Catholic Social Ministry Gathering 2019

As our Church and communities face difficult issues such as racism, inequality, and political polarization, we are called to not only dialogue but also to begin the difficult work of restoring justice and reconciliation. Join the discussion and be part of the solution by participating in the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, February 2-5, 2019. Act now to be part of our special initiatives developing **diverse leaders** and **young leaders** in Catholic social ministry. To register or for more information, visit www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org.

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www.usccb.org/freedom