

## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop  
614 · 224 · 2251

June 7, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the last year, we as Catholics have been actively engaged in prayer and action on behalf of religious liberty. We have strenuously objected to the many versions of proposed rules from the United States Department of Health and Human Services that would force religious organizations and private employers, which do not qualify for a narrow religious exemption, to cooperate in the provision of certain coverage in group insurance plans that violates the moral teaching of the very religion from which they draw their identity. We have sent postcards to legislators as part of the Project Life and Liberty Campaign to protect human life and promote full religious liberty.

Now it's time for us to pray and to recognize that our best efforts hold little promise apart from our turning to God and pleading for His gracious assistance. So, in communion with the other bishops of these United States, I renew my request that we observe a Fortnight for Freedom, fourteen days of intense prayer and sacrifice for religious liberty beginning on June 21 and ending on July 4, 2013. I will celebrate an opening Mass for the Fortnight on June 21 at 12:05 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Columbus. Please join me if you are able; and if you cannot be at the Cathedral please join me in spirit by taking part in the events in your parish.

It is my hope that every parish will offer a Mass opening the Fortnight on June 21 and that every parishioner will daily pray the "Litany for Liberty" or the rosary and offer some sacrifice for the intention of religious freedom. The Office for Divine Worship in the diocese has prepared a resource for parishes to use in hosting a Eucharistic holy hour during the Fortnight which can be found on the diocesan website. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops also has a fourteen day study guide on *Dignitatis Humanae*, the Vatican II Declaration on Religious Liberty available at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/fortnight-for-freedom/fortnight-for-freedom-reflections.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/fortnight-for-freedom/fortnight-for-freedom-reflections.cfm).

We have been blessed that this country's founders recognized religious liberty as our first freedom. Let us pray fervently to God that we may continue to enjoy our religious liberty without any encumbrance.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D.  
Bishop of Columbus