

SUGGESTIONS FOR OBSERVING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

June 22-29, 2019 – “Strength in Hope”



RESOURCES CITED BELOW CAN BE FOUND AT www.worcesterdiocese.org/religiousfreedomweek

- ❖ Inform parishioners about the Religious Freedom Week initiative by including the [theme flyer](#) in the parish bulletin on the weekend of **June 16**.
- ❖ Include a [special petition](#) in the **Prayer of the Faithful** at each Mass throughout the week.
- ❖ Distribute a **Prayer Card** with the [Prayer for Religious Liberty](#) (or print the prayer in the parish bulletin), and encourage parishioners to pray it daily. The prayer could also be prayed at weekend and daily Masses during Religious Freedom Week, used to open parish meetings, and made available at Eucharistic adoration, etc.
- ❖ Distribute the USCCB “**Pray-Reflect-Act**” **bulletin inserts** and encourage parishioners to read them and to visit www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek to learn more.
- ❖ Use the **graphics and social media downloads** ([available here](#)) on your parish website, and link them to the designated “Pray-Reflect-Act” bulletin insert.
- ❖ Invite a guest speaker to your parish for a **presentation** on religious freedom (*contact the Respect Life Office for referrals*).
- ❖ Encourage parishioners to offer special **prayer, fasting, or acts of reparation**. For example, meatless Fridays, a chosen day to fast, offering up Mass, Rosary, or Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc. (*visit www.usccb.org/pray*).
- ❖ Have a special parish **Holy Hour** or **Mass**, or organize **Eucharistic adoration** for a designated period of time. Invite neighboring parishes to join you! (*a copy of the Holy Hour for Religious Freedom is available upon request from the Respect Life Office*).
- ❖ Pray a **daily rosary** in your parish for the cause of religious liberty each day of Religious Freedom Week.
- ❖ Present a **Catholic movie night** for members of your parish, such as “**A Man for All Seasons**” about the martyrdom of St. Thomas More, “**Becket**” about the 12th century English martyr, or “**For Greater Glory**” about the struggle for religious freedom in Mexico.
- ❖ Encourage parishioners to [read](#) “**Our First, Most Cherished Liberty**”, a document of the US. Bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty. Publish the document’s link in the parish bulletin, or make print copies available to parishioners.
- ❖ Plan a **parish outreach event** including a meal such as a fish fry, picnic, pancake breakfast, or spaghetti supper – to raise awareness about Religious Freedom Week; invite a speaker; distribute handouts, etc.
- ❖ Host a **study group** on “**Dignitatis Humanae**”, the Second Vatican Council’s [Declaration on Religious Liberty](#).
- ❖ Encourage parishioners to **attend daily Mass on Independence Day** to continue to pray for the protection of religious freedom in our nation.

Resources are available to help you!

Prayers, bulletin inserts, downloads, and more can be found at:

www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek

www.worcesterdiocese.org/religiousfreedomweek

Contact the Respect Life Office for more information.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Please notify **The Catholic Free Press** (cfpnews@catholicfreepress.org; 508-757-6387) and the **Respect Life Office** (aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org; 508-929-4311) of any events planned in your parish or cluster so that we can help in publicizing the events through calendars, email distribution lists, etc.