



**OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
OFFICE FOR LIFE, FAMILY AND LAITY
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA**

**THE SECOND FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM
June 21 to July 4, 2013**

**ALL CLERGY AND FAITHFUL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE
ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME WAY**

Last year, in the statement, *Our First, Most Cherished Liberty* (April 2012), the USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty announced the first Fortnight for Freedom – a call to fourteen days of prayer, action, and study for religious freedom in the United States and abroad.

Recognizing that we still face many challenges to religious liberty, in December 2012, the U.S. Bishops announced that they would be promoting another Fortnight for Freedom in 2013. This year, the Fortnight for Freedom has great importance due to the following:

- o First, the Supreme Court's rulings on same-sex "marriage," which could have grave implications for religious freedom, will almost certainly issue right around the Fortnight.
- o Second, by the time of the Fortnight, the effective date of the HHS mandate—August 1, 2013—will be scarcely a month away, and the Administration's decision on the shape of a final rule will likely be imminent. And unfortunately, as we now know after extensive study and analysis of the latest proposal, we are still far from receiving the relief we need through the regulatory process.
- o Third, the success of a second Fortnight is essential to perpetuating a new movement for religious freedom, highlighting the full range of ongoing religious freedom issues, here and abroad, and in so many other areas of law, such as immigration, adoption, and disaster relief.

The Second Fortnight for Freedom begins the day before the Memorial of Saint John Fisher and Saint Thomas More, June 21, 2013, and concludes on Independence Day, July 4, 2013.

THE SECOND FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Once again, the observance of The Second Fortnight for Freedom, June 21 through to July 4, 2013, will be parish-based in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. All pastors, parish priests and deacons, along with those associated with them in the preparation of the Sacred Liturgy during these fourteen days, are encouraged to make use of the following ways to observe **The Second Fortnight for Freedom**.

- Use a petition in the *Prayer of the Faithful* each day at Mass, such as:
For the protection of conscience rights and religious liberty, that all people of good will may work together against the increasing threats to these fundamental rights.
- Encourage the daily praying of the Rosary after Mass, as part of parish meetings, and in homes for the protection of Religious Freedom.
- Encourage adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament for the protection of Religious Freedom.
- Encourage the inclusion of this prayer for religious liberty in all meetings and assemblies in parishes.

Prayer for Religious Liberty

Almighty God, Father of all nations,
for freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus (Gal 5:1).

We praise and bless you for the gift of religious liberty,
the foundation of human rights, justice and the common good.

Grant to our leaders the wisdom
to protect and promote our liberties.

By your grace may we have the courage to defend them,
for ourselves and for all those who live in this blessed land.

We ask this
through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our patroness,
and in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

An additional prayer and related resources for The Second Fortnight for Freedom can be found at: <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/fortnight-for-freedom/fortnight-freedom-prayer-resources.cfm>.

The following website provides reflection materials in English and Spanish for The Second Fortnight for Freedom: <http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/fortnight-for-freedom/fortnight-for-freedom-reflections.cfm>.