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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"*

March 2016

Vol. II: No. 3

### New and Notable

#### **The Little Sisters of the Poor Should Win Court Case**

The Little Sisters take their case to the Supreme Court on March 23. Archbishop William Lori says, "It is simply unreasonable for government to demand that the Sisters violate their consciences and put a wall between their faith and their good works." [Read more...](#)

#### **Pray for the Sisters**

If you are in the Washington, DC area, join the Little Sisters at the Jeanne Jugan Residence to pray for for a successful outcome to the lawsuit. [Details at their website.](#)

Bishop Loverde of the Diocese of Arlington writes to his diocesan family, encouraging them to pray. His words inspire all of us, and he includes an invitation to pray to which all Christians can respond. [Read more...](#)

No matter where you are, you can pray! Join us, as we pray on March 23, asking for the [intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of Our Country](#). Prayer card is also [available en español](#).

## Out of Step?

"Why is the Catholic Church so out of step with modern society?" This is a question raised with some frequency in the United States today. On the other hand, many Catholics are left asking, "Why is there so much animosity toward the church in the media? Why is the church having to defend her religious freedom in court?" Cardinal Donald Wuerl, reflects on the place of Catholic values in a changing society. [Read more...](#)

## Knights of Columbus Provides Major Report on Genocide of Christians to State Department

The major report that makes the case that the terror campaign being waged by ISIS and its affiliates against Christians and other religious minorities meets the definition of genocide was released March 10, 2016 at a news conference at the National Press Club by the Knights of Columbus and In Defense of Christians. [Read more...](#)

USCCB President, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, issued an urgent call, March 14, to support a petition to stop genocide in the Middle East and convince the U.S. Department of State to include Christians in any formal declaration of genocide. [Read the press release.](#) The petition is available at [www.stopthechristiangenocide.org](http://www.stopthechristiangenocide.org)

## Reflections on Early Christian Martyrs

Cardinal Wuerl recently posted reflections on early martyrs on his blog. Read [The Inspiration of Saints Felicity and Perpetua](#), as well as [Saintly Heroes: The Inspirational Witness of Saint Polycarp and Other Martyrs](#).

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## Video

**What is Religious Freedom?**



Religious freedom is  
not only that of private thought or worship.

It is the liberty to live,  
both privately and publicly, according to the ethical  
principles resulting from found truth.

-Pope Francis

Religious freedom is not only that of private worship. This [4 minute video](#) features stories of the importance of religious freedom for institutions that perform the works of mercy - educating children, feeding the hungry, and healing the sick.

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*Non datur libertas sine veritate.*