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Free to Serve USCCB Religious Liberty News *"We are Catholics, We are Americans"*

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New and Notable

Solemnity of Christ the King: Solidarity in Suffering

Join USCCB, the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Relief Services, Aid to the Church in Need, and CNEWA on November 26th, the Solemnity of Christ the King, for a Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians. [Learn more.](#)

Archbishop Lori in *The Hill*- There Can Be No Religious Test for Public Office

Our lawmakers seem to be forgetting the Supreme Court's admonition in *Torcaso*, as well as Article VI of the Constitution, that government cannot force someone to profess a belief - or disbelief - in any religion, in order to hold public office. [Read more.](#)

Archbishop Lori- Attorney General's Religious Liberty Guidance Protects Freedom Of Faith-Based Organizations

The Attorney General's guidance helpfully reaffirms that the law protects the freedom of faith-based organizations to conduct their operations in accordance with their religious mission. [Read more.](#)

Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop Lori- HHS Mandate Decision Represents Return to Common Sense

The Administration's decision to provide a broad religious and moral exemption to the HHS mandate recognizes that the full range of faith-based and mission-driven organizations, as well as the people who run them, have deeply held religious and moral beliefs that the law must respect. [Read more.](#)

Access to Truth

by Aaron Matthew Weldon

Since the Trump administration expanded the exemption from the HHS contraception mandate, several misleading responses have appeared. While disagreement in a pluralistic society is to be expected - particularly on issues surrounding sexuality - civil debate must be based on truth, not fear that is rooted in falsehood. [Read more.](#)

First Freedom Podcast

[Episode 6: The Bishops and Migration, with Todd Scribner](#)

[Episode 7: Religious Freedom and Catholic Education, with Greg Dolan](#)

[Episode 8: HHS Mandate Follow-up, with Hillary Byrnes](#)

Life Issues Forum: Religious Identity and Freedom

by Kimberly Baker

By adhering to their founding beliefs, religious groups aren't "forcing" their views on society; rather, the true imposition is the stifling and suppression of religious identity and expression-within these groups' own operations, even due to mandatory laws. [Read more.](#)

Tell Congress to Support Disaster Relief for Houses of Worship

The Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2017 (H.R. 2405/ S.1823) will ensure that houses of worship damaged in Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, as well as in future disasters, will be eligible for federal financial aid to repair their damaged buildings on the same terms as other nonprofits. [Take action today!](#)

[Fact Sheet: Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2017](#)

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