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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"*

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New and Notable

Urgent Action Needed on Contraceptive Mandate - MIDNIGHT DEADLINE!

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has asked for comments from the public on how best to accommodate stakeholders who have religious objections to contraceptive and sterilization coverage, while assuring that people with no religious objection to such coverage can still obtain it. **Today is the deadline. Please file your comments before midnight and [speak up today!](#)**

Archbishop Lori Responds to Statement of Chairman of U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Archbishop William E. Lori responded to a statement issued by the chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights upon the issuance of its report on "Peaceful Coexistence." [Read the full response.](#)

God's Servant First: The Life and Legacy of Thomas More

Over 60 relics and artifacts bring to life the courageous witness of a great man in a special exhibit, *God's Servant First: The Life and Legacy of Thomas More*. This original exhibition features treasures from the Stonyhurst College Collections in England and is available to view only at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC. [Learn more.](#)

Study Finds that Religion Contributes \$1.2 Trillion to US Economy

For those that are unconvinced that threats to religious liberty here at home are insignificant compared to those suffering the realities of genocide abroad, it's incumbent to realize that draining the financial resources of domestic religious institutions hurts everyone and limits the ability that they can respond to and support those suffering persecution in

other parts of the world. [Read more.](#)

Doctors, States Challenge New "Transgender Regulation"

Doctors, hospitals and five states will file a lawsuit today against a new federal regulation that would force doctors to ignore science and their medical judgment and perform gender transition procedures on children. The government does not even require Medicare and Medicaid to cover these same gender transition procedures because the Health & Human Services' (HHS) medical experts found the risks were often too high and benefits too unclear. But any doctor citing the same evidence and their judgment in an individual case would be in violation of the new mandate and face potential lawsuits or job loss. [Read more.](#)

Religious Freedom Issues Loom Large in 2016 Election

With every passing U.S. election cycle, First Amendment and religious freedom-minded voters and watchdogs might be tempted to think, "This is the election that will most matter in our lifetimes." But as recent years have brought a wave of religious liberty court battles and the federal contraceptive mandate infringing on an array of operations by church entities - along with a U.S. Supreme Court vacancy to be filled - 2016 might be a seminal electoral year. [Read more.](#)

Faithful Citizenship Resources

The elections are right around the corner! To assist Catholics in forming their consciences and engaging in political life, the Catholic bishops have made available dozens of resources, including the text of the statement, [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#), as well as two-page handouts on important topics such as [Conscience Formation](#), [Civil Dialogue](#), and [Contacting Your Elected Officials](#). Find more at [FaithfulCitizenship.org](#).

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Video

The Right to Religious Freedom



SACROSANCTUM OECUMENICUM CONCILIUM VATICANUM II

DECLARATIO DE LIBERTATE RELIGIOSA

DECRETUM DE ACTIVITATE MISSIONALI ECCLESIAE

DECRETUM DE PRESBYTERORUM MINISTERIO ET VITA

DECRETUM DE ACTIVITATE MISSIONALI ECCLESIAE

DECRETUM DE PRESBYTERORUM MINISTERIO ET VITA

CONSTITUTIO PASTORALIS DE ECCLESIA

IN MUNDO HUIUS TEMPORIS

Ego + Michael C. O'Neill, Ordinarius Regionarius
Ego + J.C. van Nieuwenburg, SS. Archiepiscopus - Episcopus
Ego + Fr. Raphael Perotti, Archiepiscopus - Episcopus
→ Ego + ...
Ego + ...
Ego + ...

[Find out more](#) about what the Catholic Church teaches on religious freedom, including the groundbreaking Declaration on Religious Freedom (*Dignitatis Humanae*) from the Second Vatican Council.

Let's Talk! Small community gatherings are a great, simple way to build the life of our Church. They are also important for a healthy civil society. [Here are some ideas for using the new video to kick start a small-group conversation about religious freedom.](#)

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Non datur libertas sine veritate.