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

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### New and Notable

***USA Today: Religious Americans lead hurricane response, so why does FEMA discriminate?*** by Cardinal DiNardo and Archbishop Wenski, with Rabbis Barry Gelman and Efreim Goldberg

We don't wait for the local or federal government to step in. We just start helping those in need. But when we are in need ourselves after a disaster, the federal government tells us we cannot receive aid because we're religious. [Read more.](#)

**USCCB Chairmen Urge Congress to Support the Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2017, H.R. 2405 / S. 1823**

Archbishop Lori and Bishop Rozanski asked Representatives and Senators to support the legislation, which would ensure the fair and equal treatment for houses of worship damaged in natural disasters by enabling them to seek aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). [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](#)**

## **A Real Rebuild**

By Aaron Matthew Weldon

Everyone wants to see disaster-stricken cities rebuilt. But it may come as a surprise to many of us that some of the most important institutions in hurricane-ravaged communities are not eligible to receive grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). [Read more.](#)

## **First Freedom Podcast**

New podcasts are up! We talk with [Hillary Byrnes about the ongoing HHS mandate saga](#) and with [Montse Alvarado of Becket Law about living dogma loudly and fairness in disaster relief.](#)

## **Archbishop Lori: Statement in Response to Senate Judiciary Committee Line of Questioning of Nominee**

Rather than simply consider the professional achievements of a nominee for the federal judiciary, multiple senators challenged her fitness to serve due to her Catholic faith. [Read more.](#)

## **Joint Letter to Congress: 33 Organizations Urge Passage of Conscience Protection Act of 2017**

The Conscience Protection Act addresses several "loopholes" in current federal laws that have allowed violations of conscience rights to continue. [Read more.](#)

## **Tell the White House that It's Time to Drop the HHS Mandate**

The HHS mandate puts an unnecessary burden on religious freedom, a burden that the administration has promised to lift. Yet the burden has not been lifted. [Contact the White House today, and ask President Trump to keep his word and lift this burden.](#)

## **We want to hear from you!**

We want to learn more about our advocates so that we can communicate more effectively. We invite you to respond to [this short survey](#). [The survey](#) consists of only 4 questions and should require about 1 minute of your time. Thank you!

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*Non datur libertas sine veritate.*

