



Committee for Religious Liberty

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Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz
Archbishop of Louisville
Chairman

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Dear brother bishops,

May the blessings of this Lenten season be with you!

Religious Freedom Week 2019: Strength in Hope takes place from June 22 to 29. The Week begins with the Feast of Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More, ends with the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, and includes the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. This year's Religious Freedom Week is also notable in that it includes the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*) and the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

An [animated video promoting Religious Freedom Week](#) is available to be shared. Staff have prepared a [bulletin insert](#) to be used to promote Religious Freedom Week. The attached talking points can be used for promotional pieces in diocesan papers and other outlets. The Religious Freedom Week logo is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The USCCB will issue a press release announcing Religious Freedom Week soon.

During Religious Freedom Week, Catholics are encouraged to pray and act each day for religious freedom. The [Pray-Reflect-Act series](#) aims to help Catholics build solidarity with people of faith who are persecuted abroad and find strength to carry out the mission of the Church here in the United States. [Social media downloads with the prayer intention for each day of Religious Freedom Week are available](#). Please distribute these materials through your channels where appropriate.

Lectionary notes for Sunday, June 23 (*Corpus Christi*) and for Sunday, June 30 (Sunday before Independence Day) can be found at the Religious Freedom Week website. Please check www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek for updates, blog posts, and podcasts. All materials except the talking points are or will be available at the website. Any diocesan staff with questions about Religious Freedom Week should call or email Aaron Weldon at 202-541-5407 (aweldon@usccb.org) or Hillary Byrnes at 202-541-3454 (hbyrnes@usccb.org).

Thank you again for your support for Religious Freedom Week and for your united voices in the promotion and defense of religious freedom!

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville
Chairman, Committee for Religious Liberty