



FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

St. Raymond of Peñafort
June 21 - July 4, 2017



The last few years we have seen one assault after another by federal, state and local governments on the Religious Liberties of Christian Americans, from requiring Christian charitable organizations (e.g., the Little Sisters of the Poor) to provide contraception insurance for employees, to requiring public schools to allow “transgender” students to use the showers and rest rooms of their choice, to requiring Christian businesses to provide services (e.g., “wedding cakes”) for same-sex “weddings.”

Thanks be to God, in the last few months these attacks have slowed and even, in some cases, been reversed, as a new pro-religious liberty administration has apparently arrived in Washington. Nevertheless, we must continue to hold our President and all our politicians and judges to account, and not let up in our fight against all attacks on our God-given and constitutionally guaranteed Religious Liberty— “our first, most cherished liberty.”

To this end, the U.S. Bishops are once again asking Catholics to keep the **“Fortnight for Freedom,”** the fourteen days from the vigil of the Feast of St. Thomas More, **June 21, to July 4, Independence Day**, to pray for the protection of our liberty. St. Raymond’s will observe the Fortnight in the following ways. **All parishioners are strongly encouraged to take part!**

1. **Liturgically:**

- **Two** Special “Holy Hours” for Religious Freedom are scheduled for the two Wednesdays of the Fortnight, June 21 and June 28.
- After the 8am Weekday Masses, the 9am Saturday Masses and 5pm Sunday Masses we will pray the “Prayer for Religious Freedom” and the Novena Prayers to St. Thomas More.
- After all other Mass we will pray the “Prayer for Religious Freedom.”

2. **Homilies:** The priests will address Religious Liberty in various homilies during the Fortnight.

3. **Individually:** All parishioners are encouraged to do one or more of the following:

- Pray the “Prayer for Religious Freedom” daily (see below)
- Pray the Novena to St. Thomas More (see reverse side).
- Pray the Rosary daily
- Offer special daily penances/sacrifices
- Abstain from meat on Wednesdays, and fast and abstain from meat on Fridays

“Prayer for Religious Freedom”

*O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we come before you
to entrust our prayers and petitions for our Church, nation and families.*

*We pray for the conversion of hearts to protect religious freedom,
the sanctity of human life and the sanctity of marriage.*

*We beg for your mercy and forgiveness
for ways we have turned from your love,
and pray in reparation for those sins committed against life and freedom.*

*We pray that our hearts be united to yours
in order that all mankind may come together to worship and adore you
in unity rooted in love and mercy.*

*We do this through the intercession of
Our Blessed Mother, Mary Immaculate; St. Joseph, Guardian of the Church;
St. Thomas More and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, our diocesan patrons;
St. Raymond of Peñafort; and all the angels and saints. Amen.*