

Religious Liberty Talking Points – Deacon David Gray

- The reason we are here is because we care, because we love our country, because we cherish our faith, and because we are concerned.
 - The January 20th restrictive HHS ruling made two things very clear.
 - **First** is that religious freedom is under attack – those that don't understand this fact want us to think it is:
 - Contraceptives itself
 - Just Politics
 - War on Woman's Rights
 - **IT IS NONE OF THESE** – It is about protecting our foundational Religious beliefs
 - The current administration seems to have no understanding or respect for the impact of this decision – the issue of religious freedom and the Constitution does not seem to be relevant to this administration at all.
 - Present Administration overstepping the constitutional boundary and intervening in the right of all Churches to practice its faith, and honor its conscience and moral teaching.
- **Second** thing that happened – and this is a good thing. It has encouraged us to wake up – the point is very clear – this issue is important and we must have the conviction that this attack on religious freedom **will not be accepted**. Look around today – this isn't a Catholic issue, it isn't a Christian issue – gathered around us are different religions, different political parties, different walks of life and genders.
 - As our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI said recently as he addressed our Bishops “Of particular concern are certain attempts being made to limit that most cherished of American freedoms, the **freedom of religion**.”
 - We are joined together – united – in communion

Why so important?

- Each of us are accountable for the decisions make -
- The power struggles between Church and State are real –
 - They cannot be reduced to “Politics or Statecraft” -

Eph 6 – Putting on our spiritual armor

- World is being shaped by evil
- Watering down of spiritual values

What are we called to do?

- PRAY – fervently – Our nation needs to be a
- ACT - Take up the battle everywhere we can

The goal for these rallies has to be the conversion of souls – not the power of nations