

June 20, 2012

Media Alert

Community Unites for Religious Freedom Fortnight for Freedom will Mobilize the Faithful to Prayer and Action

WHO: Catholic parishioners throughout the 9 counties of the Diocese of Orlando
Individuals who seek to preserve religious freedom in America

WHAT: Fortnight for Freedom

WHEN: June 21-July 4, 2012

DETAILS:

Bishop John Noonan has asked all the faithful to pray during the Fortnight for Freedom and to participate in the celebration of Mass to pray for religious freedom, particularly on July 4. For list of Mass times at parishes throughout the Diocese of Orlando, visit www.orlandodiocese.org.

- The Diocese of Orlando is joining dioceses around the country to pray in thanksgiving for our heritage of religious freedom, reflect on attempts to limit this most cherished liberty and have the courage to take positive action.
- Our faith is not a private matter. The Church plays a role in the promotion and attainment of justice and protection of the common good. We are called to be steadfast witnesses to the love of Christ even in the face of controversy and great debate.
- We are concerned by the Health and Human Services (HHS) Mandate because it mandates health care coverage which does not uphold the teachings of life and goes against what we believe is unacceptable. Requiring that Catholic hospitals, universities, and institutions – which do uphold these teachings of life – must now provide drugs to assist with the destruction of life, also diminishes our ability to practice our faith. The payment of our insurance premiums will also subsidize abortion inducing drugs, even though we do not believe in this culture of death.

The bishops of the U.S. have rejected this HHS mandate, insisting that it forces the faithful to pay for “services” which violate our religious convictions.

- Examples of events during the Fortnight for Freedom are below:

JUNE 21 **St. James Cathedral, Orlando**, 12:40 p.m., Peal church bells for 5 minutes as a call to prayer, 12:45 p.m., participants will gather in prayer garden on Orange

Avenue and Jefferson Street to proclaim the reflection of the day as prepared by the Religious Freedom parish committee and pray the Prayer for Religious Liberty (approximately 10 minutes) This continues each weekday through July 3.

- JUNE 22** **St. Timothy Catholic Church, Lady Lake**, will present a Speaker – Ray Noble, Esq. on the Constitution and the First Amendment, 11 a.m. in Rooms 1, 2, and 3.
- JUNE 24** **Most Precious Blood Catholic Church, Oviedo**, will have an Information Table and Letter Writing Campaign to U.S. Senators and Congressmen after all the Masses.
- JUNE 24** **Church of the Resurrection, Lakeland**, will distribute prayer cards at Mass with the Prayer for Religious Freedom and all will be encouraged to pray throughout the Fortnight for Freedom.
- JUNE 26** **Holy Family Catholic Church, Orlando** will have an event for middle and high school students at 7:30 p.m. called “Obstacles in leading a Christian life.” Armed with Christ’s Grace, teens sixth through 12th grades are invited to come and conquer the obstacles in our lives and search for faith. Teens will participate in an obstacle course and scavenger hunt for items of faith and liberty.
- JUNE 28** **Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Daytona Beach, and Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Ormond Beach** will organize a Fortnight for Freedom Rally on the Granada Bridge at the intersections of S.R. 40 and Beach Street in Ormond Beach, 4-7 p.m.
- JULY 4** **St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Wildwood**, will organize prayer for a different branch of the military every hour from 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m. We encourage those who have served in the Armed Forces to wear their uniforms when coming to pray. Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m.
- JULY 4** **Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Mims**, will create a rosary out of helium balloons that will be tethered to the church and pray the rosary, Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m.
- JULY 4** Mass celebrated all Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Orlando and church bells will ring at noon for religious freedom.