

SUGGESTIONS FOR OBSERVING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

June 22-29, 2025 “Witnesses to Hope”



ALL RESOURCES CITED BELOW CAN BE FOUND AT

www.worcesterdiocese.org/religiousfreedomweek

- ❖ Inform parishioners about the Religious Freedom Week initiative by using the **bulletin announcement** on the weekends of **June 15 and 22** and posting to the parish website, sending to parish email list, etc.
- ❖ Utilize the one-page articles which can be downloaded from the website above as **bulletin inserts** to help parishioners learn more about current religious freedom issues.
- ❖ Include a special petition in the **Prayer of the Faithful** at each Mass throughout the week.
- ❖ Make available the **Prayer for Religious Liberty** and encourage parishioners to pray it daily, using whatever means you are currently communicating with parishioners – bulletin, emails, website, mailings, social media. The prayer could also be prayed at weekend and daily Masses during Religious Freedom Week.
- ❖ Use the **graphics and social media downloads** on your parish website and link them to the designated USCCB “Pray-Reflect-Act” pages.
- ❖ Encourage parishioners to offer special **prayer, fasting, or acts of reparation**. For example, meatless Fridays, a chosen day to fast, offering up Mass, Rosary, or Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc. (Prayer intentions for each day are included on the “Pray-Reflect-Act” flyers and in the social media graphics.)
- ❖ Offer a parish **Holy Hour** to pray for the protection of religious freedom. *(A presider’s edition of the USCCB’s Holy Hour for Religious Freedom is available to priests and deacons upon request from the Respect Life Office. It can be sent electronically or in print form and is suitable for insertion in a 3-ring binder.)*
- ❖ Pray a daily **rosary** in your parish for the cause of religious liberty.
- ❖ Encourage parishioners to read **Dignitatis Humanae**, the Second Vatican Council’s [Declaration on Religious Freedom](#).
- ❖ Encourage parishioners to **attend daily Mass on Independence Day** to continue to pray for the protection of religious freedom in our nation.

Resources are available to help you!

Prayers, bulletin inserts, downloads, and more can be found at:

www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek AND www.worcesterdiocese.org/religiousfreedomweek

Contact the Respect Life Office for more information or subscribe to our email list by sending an email to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org and request to be added to our list.