

10 Ways to Celebrate Religious Freedom Week

Catholics across the United States are encouraged to pray, reflect, and act in support of religious liberty at home and abroad during “**Strength in Hope**,” Religious Freedom Week 2019, which begins on June 22, the Feast of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, and ends on June 29, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. See the information at www.archlou.org/religiousfreedom or www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek for talking points, fact sheets, and further resources, but here are 10 concrete ways your parish can participate.

1. **Encourage** parishioners to reflect, pray, and take action on various topics by visiting the [daily reflections for Religious Freedom Week](#).
2. **Share** on your web page, social media, and/or email a brief and informative video about the importance of religious freedom for us as Catholics and Americans. See [here](#).
3. **Pray** the [Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty](#) each day after Mass from June 22 – June 29.
4. **Attend** the archdiocesan Religious Freedom Mass on **Wednesday, July 3, 5:00 p.m.** at the Little Sisters of the Poor (15 Audubon Plaza Drive, Louisville, KY 40217).
5. **Inspire** parishioners by sharing this discussion of religious liberty on [Conversations with Archbishop Kurtz](#). Archbishop discussed this issue with Chancellor Dr. Brian Reynolds during the October, 2018 edition of this show.
6. **Organize** a special Eucharistic Holy Hour for [Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty](#).
7. **Educate and inform** parishioners about this week with this [bulletin insert](#) (or use the text as a bulletin blurb) on the weekends of June 9 and June 16, the two Sundays before Religious Freedom Week begins.
8. **Encourage** parishioners to educate themselves about the issue of foster care and consider volunteering to become foster parents. A major concern in the area of religious liberty is freedom for child welfare service providers, especially given the increase in need due to the opioid crisis in the state of Kentucky. Go [here](#) or call Ed Harpring in the Family Ministries Office, 502-636-0296, eharpring@archlou.org for more information about how parishioners can become involved.
9. **Inform** parishioners via daily tweets during Religious Freedom Week from [@ArchbishopKurtz](#) or [@usccbfreedom](#). Responsible social media is an effective way to evangelize and maintain contact with parishioners on vital Catholic issues. Parishioners also may stay up-to-date on current religious freedom issues by signing up for text messages from the USCCB. Just text the word "FREEDOM" or "LIBERTAD" to 84576.
10. **Show and discuss** the film [Under Caesar's Sword](#) with a class, church, or other group. The USCCB-recommended award-winning film is a three-year, collaborative global research project that investigates how Christian communities respond when their religious freedom is severely violated. The 26-minute video has all the materials you need to facilitate an effective way to raise awareness and take action to help persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Find these and other resources at www.archlou.org/religiousfreedom or www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek.