



office of
JUSTICE
+ PEACE

May 29, 2012

Catholic Diocese of Richmond
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Programs

Catholic Social Teaching Education
Parish Social Ministry
Respect Life Ministry
Southwest Virginia Ministries
Prison Ministry
Haiti Ministry
Migrant Farm Worker Ministry
Fuel and Hunger Fund
Catholic Campaign
for Human Development
Catholic Relief Services
Pastoral Care Ministries

Offices

Eastern Shore
Norton
Richmond
Roanoke

Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

In solidarity with my brother Bishops in the United States, I am asking that parishes in the Diocese of Richmond observe a special period of prayer, catechesis, and action for Religious Liberty beginning on the Vigil of the Feasts of Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fisher (June 21, 2012) through Independence Day (July 4th, 2012). This "Fortnight for Freedom" will be held across our great nation and will be a time for thanksgiving to our Lord for the gift of Religious Liberty, of intercession for the protection of that gift, and of Christian witness for the promotion of this, our first, and most cherished, liberty.

Enclosed, please find a compilation of suggested activities along with a suggested calendar to guide you in your parish's observance of the Fortnight for Freedom. It is our hope that no matter the size of or resources available to your parish, that you will be able to identify and implement some activity during the Fortnight for Freedom to promote Christian witness for the preservation of Religious Liberty.

Additionally, I will preside at a **Mass for Religious Liberty on Sunday, June 24, 2012 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond, VA.** This Mass will be the Cathedral's regularly scheduled 11:00 am Mass. Please inform your parishioners that they will be warmly welcomed should they be able to attend.

Please direct questions about the Fortnight for Freedom to Jay Brown, the Director of the Office of Justice and Peace. He and his staff are available to assist you in your planning for the use of these resources and for additional activities that may already be developing at your parish.

Sincerely Yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend Francis X. DiLorenzo
Bishop of Richmond

