

# FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP WEEKLY

October 27, 2020

## WHAT IS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM?

Religious freedom includes two important aspects - freedom from and freedom for. "Freedom from" is probably familiar and what most of us think of as freedom. It means that we are to be free from coercion. The state is not an all-powerful institution that can force people to act against their consciences.

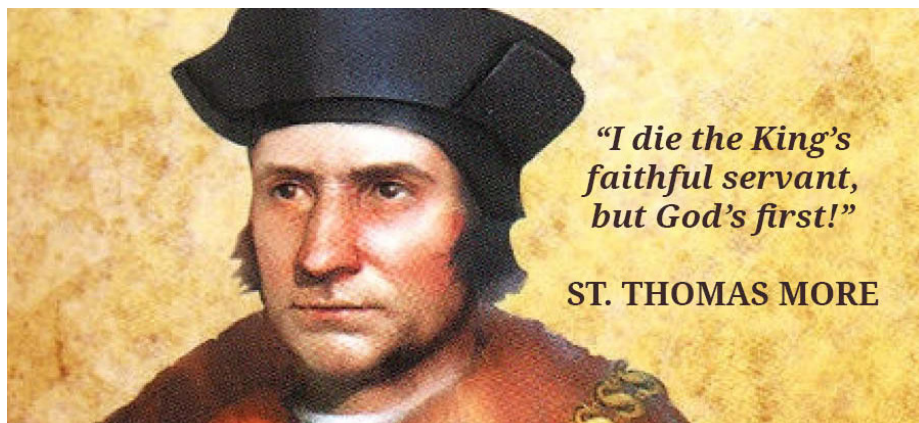
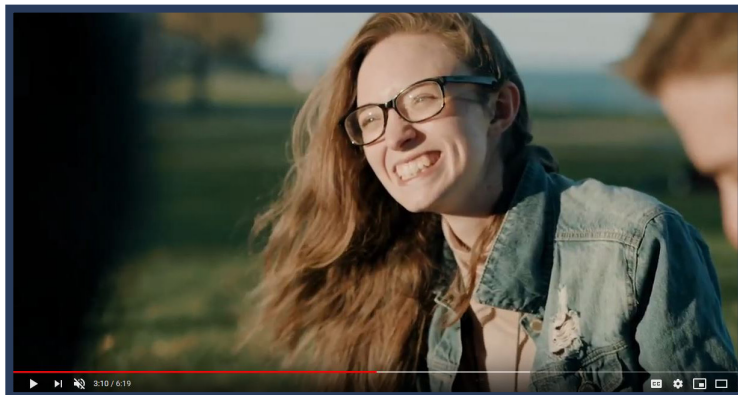
The right to be free from coercion limits the power of the state. But this freedom must be paired with a "freedom for," a positive orientation to seeking and acting in accordance with the truth. People and institutions have both a right and a duty to seek religious truth. Freedom from coercion allows the space for the pursuit of religious truth.

Religious freedom requires that a society both refrain from preventing people from living out their religion and help to create the conditions for religious expression to flourish. A free society, then, is one where people actively seek religious truth and fully live out that truth in public and private. As Pope Francis recently said, the Church must have "the freedom and all the means needed to bring the proclamation of the Kingdom to the existential peripheries of society."

[From the USCCB explanation of Dignitatis Humane.](#)

## CATHOLICS WORK WITH CHRIST AS HE BUILDS HIS KINGDOM

This [short video](#) from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops helps us see and understand all of the important and impactful work of the Catholic Church in the United States. All this work is possible because of our freedom to live and practice our faith and our call to be Christ's hands and feet.



## LET US PRAY

*Immaculate Heart of Mary, help us to conquer the menace of evil, which so easily takes root in the hearts of the people of today, and whose immeasurable effects already weigh down upon our modern world and seem to block the paths toward the future.*

*From famine and war, deliver us.  
From nuclear war, from incalculable self-destruction, from every kind of war, deliver us.  
From sins against human life from its very beginning, deliver us.  
From hatred and from the demeaning of the dignity of the children of God, deliver us.  
From every kind of injustice in the life of society, both national and international, deliver us.  
From readiness to trample on the commandments of God, deliver us.  
From attempts to stifle in human hearts the very truth of God, deliver us.  
From the loss of awareness of good and evil, deliver us.  
From sins against the Holy Spirit, deliver us.*

*Accept, O Mother of Christ, this cry laden with the sufferings of all individual human beings, laden with the sufferings of whole societies.  
Help us with the power of the Holy Spirit conquer all sin: individual sin and the "sin of the world," sin in all its manifestations.  
Let there be revealed once more in the history of the world the infinite saving power of the redemption: the power of merciful love.*

*May it put a stop to evil.  
May it transform consciences.  
May your Immaculate Heart reveal for all the light of hope. Amen.*

*Also, today is the second day of an election novena. You can catch up and sign up to receive updates [here](#).*

**FOR MORE INFO AND RESOURCES, VISIT [NECATHOLIC.ORG](http://NECATHOLIC.ORG).**



*Bearing the Light of Christ in the public square.*