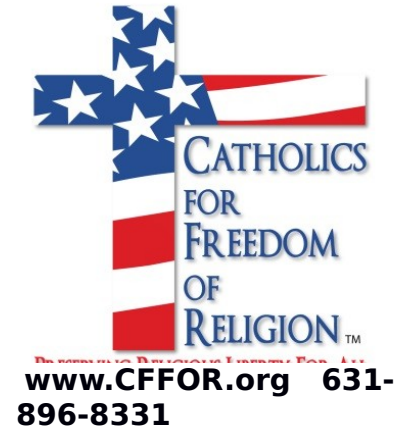


June 7, 2015



## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fortnight For Freedom: Freedom to Bear Witness Designated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

**In 1953, Pope Pius XII** stated, *“We belong to the Church militant; and She is militant because on earth the powers of darkness are ever restless to encompass Her destruction.”*

It is evident in our time that we are the Church militant as we battle the ravages of laws and regulations enabled by a culture hostile and intolerant toward moral beliefs and religious practices. The increasing rejection of any limits on personal behavior puts religious liberty, the foundation of our civil society, at grave risk.

Unfettered personal satisfaction and convenience, putting man’s wishes ahead of God’s law, is reflected in the destruction of life allowed by *Roe v Wade*. The Supreme Court may soon issue an opinion redefining marriage which will deny the truth of the fundamental belief that the family formed in the union of one man and one woman is the basic unit of our society.

Robert P. George, the keynote speaker at the upcoming June 25, 2015, Rally for Religious Freedom, asks if we are willing to follow the Gospel today, *“So for us there is no avoiding the question: Am I ashamed of the Gospel? Am I unwilling to stand with Christ by proclaiming His truths? Oh, things were easy on Palm Sunday. Standing with Jesus and His truths was the in thing to do. Everybody was shouting “Hosanna.” But now it’s Friday, and the days of acceptable Christianity are over. Jesus is before Pilate. The crowds are shouting “crucify him.” The Lord is being led to Calvary. Jesus is being nailed to the cross.”*

*“And where are we? Where are you and I? Are we afraid to be known? Are we afraid to be known as his disciples? Are we ashamed of the Gospel?”*

To preserve America’s rights of conscience and religious liberty, Catholics in every diocese and parish will come together in prayer, education and action during this Fortnight For Freedom. We claim our constitutionally protected right to a robust freedom of religion and we exercise that right by bearing witness to the truth of the Gospel in our lives, schools, work and in the public square. For if we do not know our freedom...and if we do not exercise that freedom, it is already lost.

***\*Fortnight Opening Mass. St. Agnes Cathedral, June 21, 11am***

***\*Rally for Religious Freedom. Robert P. George, Keynote speaker.***

***Darby Auditorium of Chaminade H.S, 340 Jackson Ave, Mineola. June***

***25, 7:30pm***

***To register for rally call: 516-766-0161 or***

***631-896-8331***