

## **USCCB Announces 2013 Fortnight for Freedom from June 21 to July 4**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has announced a second [Fortnight for Freedom](#) from June 21 to July 4, 2013. The first Fortnight took place during the same dates last year as an effort to educate the public about religious liberty, both at home and abroad. In 2013, we face many challenges to religious liberty, including the August 1, 2013 deadline for religious organizations to comply with the HHS mandate; potential Supreme Court rulings that could redefine marriage in June, causing serious religious liberty issues for Catholic adoption agencies and many others; and religious liberty concerns in other areas, such as immigration and humanitarian services.

Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, Chairman of the USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, will celebrate the Fortnight for Freedom Opening Mass on June 21 at 7 p.m. EDT at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore, Maryland. Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington will celebrate the Fortnight's Closing Mass on July 4 at noon EDT at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the Fortnight for Freedom, please visit [www.Fortnight4Freedom.org](http://www.Fortnight4Freedom.org). The website hosts resources such as [one-page fact sheets](#) outlining current threats to religious freedom both in the United States and abroad; [frequently asked questions](#) about religious liberty, including quotes from the Founding Fathers, the Second Vatican Council, and Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI; and a [study guide](#) on *Dignitatis Humanae*, Vatican II's document on religious liberty. The website also lists [sample activities](#) already planned in particular dioceses, an [image gallery](#) of photos from last year's Fortnight celebrations, as well as [prayer resources](#) and recommendations for other local efforts, such as special liturgies and prayer services.