



# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEKLY

from  
**Americans for Freedom of Religion**

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## **America Needs the Influence of Christian Consciences**

### [The Dignity of Human Life](#)

"[T]he common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights – for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture – is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with the maximum determination."  
(Pope St. John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici* 38)

### [The Dignity of Marriage and Family](#)

"The first setting in which faith enlightens the human city is the family. I think first and foremost of the stable union of man and woman in marriage. This union is born of their love, as a sign and presence of God's own love, and of the acknowledgment and acceptance of the goodness of sexual differentiation, whereby spouses can become one flesh (cf. Gen 2:24) and are enabled to give birth to a new life, a manifestation of the Creator's goodness, wisdom and loving plan."  
(Pope Francis, *Encyclical Lumen fidei* 52)

### [Religious and Conscience Freedoms](#)

"The preservation of freedom calls for the cultivation of virtue, self-discipline, sacrifice for the common good and a sense of responsibility towards the less fortunate. It also demands the courage to engage in civic life and to bring one's deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate. In a word, freedom is ever new. It is a challenge held out to each generation, and it must constantly be won over for the cause of good."

(Address of His Holiness, Benedict XVI; April 16, 2008; White House, Washington, D.C.)

**"Evil preaches tolerance until it is dominant...and then it seeks to silence good."**

**"To put it simply: Evil cannot bear the counter-witness of truth. It cannot co-exist peacefully with goodness, because evil insists on being seen as right, and worshiped as being right."**

Archbishop Chaput, University of Toronto, 2009.