



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEKLY  
from  
**Americans for Freedom of Religion**

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*""All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent." - Edmund Burke*

### **Religious Exemptions for Navy SEALs: Denied**

**Recent Update:** The Supreme Court has upheld the administration's move to block two lower court rulings that protected Navy SEALs who applied for religious accommodation in refusing the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. The lower courts had affirmed there is no military or pandemic exception to the Constitution and the protections of the Bill of Rights, First Amendment - Freedom of Religion. However, the Supreme Court ruled the Commander-in-Chief, not a judge, is ultimately in charge of the armed forces.

**Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito** accused the majority of doing a "great injustice to the 35 respondents ... who have volunteered to undertake demanding and hazardous duties to defend our country ..." <sup>(1)</sup>

**Thousands** of administrative and medical exemptions to the COVID-19 shot were approved but, as of February 2022, only three religious exemptions were approved.

### **Supreme Court to Hear Case of Web Designer**

**During the October, 2022 term,** the Supreme Court will hear the case of Colorado web designer, Lorie Smith, who hopes to expand her business to include designing wedding websites. Ms. Smith designs websites for the needs of all her clients but does not want to design wedding websites for couples celebrating same-sex unions since this would go against her religious convictions. However, the 10th Circuit Court is claiming to uphold the Colorado law that prohibits speech that would support discrimination.

**"She cannot create websites that promote messages** contrary to her faith, ...," according to the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) petition. "Lorie respectfully refers such requests to other web designers." <sup>(2)</sup>

**"The government** doesn't have the power to silence or compel creative expression under the threat of punishment," said ADF. "It's shocking that the 10th Circuit would permit Colorado to punish artists whose speech isn't in line with state-approved ideology." <sup>(3)</sup>

### **Get Ready for Religious Awakening and Revival!**

**On the Feast of Corpus Christi** (June 19, 2022), the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is launching a three-year campaign for "Eucharistic Revival." <sup>(4)</sup>

**The Church's first great revival** occurred when 3,000 came to Christ on the day of Pentecost, likely on May 24, A.D. 33. That beginning was a foretaste of what would happen time after time throughout history. By the year 300 approximately 14 million called themselves Christian, and by 500 the number neared 40 million. <sup>(5)</sup>

(lifesitenews.com, 3/25/22(1); dailycaller.com, 3/25/22; washingtonexaminer.com, 1/27/22; aleteia.org, 2/23/22(2); usatoday.com, 2/22/22(3); thedenverchannel.com, 2/22/22; usgraceforce.com, 2/2/22(4); decision magazine.com, 5/5/05(5))

*"Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe."*  
- *St. Augustine of Hippo*