



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEKLY
from
Americans for Freedom of Religion

www.AFFOR.org
affor1776@gmail.com

The Rights of Americans to Faith Lived Openly and Safely

Almost two hundred and fifty years ago this nation was declared to be a free and sovereign nation, based on inalienable rights from our Creator...among those rights were life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Having declared our independence, colonists of all ages, all walks of life, all economic and social status fought and died to effectuate and confirm independence for ages and millions yet unborn, including our own families.

Many of these colonists were descendants of those who had fled their countries to escape religious persecution. Their conviction was that freedom of conscience, the practice of faith in accord with each man's beliefs, was essential for the peace and prosperity of this new nation.

Our first president, George Washington, protected and nurtured freedom of conscience from his earliest days as a military leader throughout his terms as President when he often referred to the Bible verse of Micah 4:4 which refers to a time of peace and prosperity for God's people. Washington referred often to America's freedom of religion quoting from that verse, "everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

However, in violation of their religious freedom in recent years Catholics have been over-prosecuted and imprisoned by abortion loving individuals and politicians, labeled as suspected terrorists and white supremacists by the FBI, endured hundreds of attacks on churches, shrines and life centers and endured a culture degraded by irreligious politicians and hostile to families and faith.

Now a murderous attack on Catholic school children praying on their first day of school reveals the depth of evil we face. May God comfort all who suffer from the violence. May He strengthen each of us to speak openly against the persecution and to act in support of God's presence in America's public life and public square.

Today we are the witnesses. We will pray and we will speak. We will act together and invite others to join us. And we will never give up, never give in because we know: whether in chains or laurels religious freedom and liberty know nothing but victories!

- Bishop William Murphy, 2013