



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEKLY
from
Americans for Freedom of Religion

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Please Pray for America

When a new nation emerged from the thirteen British Colonies of the New World, the Catholic Church was to become a bulwark of the lives and the Judeo-Christian foundation of that nation. Although the Catholic church and its followers had been distrusted and unwelcome throughout most of the colonies from the earliest settlements, the Catholics persisted in their faith so that at the time of the first United States' census in 1790 there were almost 4 million people but only 65,000 Catholics.

The first American born Bishop, John Carroll, was given the responsibility of organizing the Catholic church throughout these newly United States, governed by a Constitution proclaiming religious freedom for all. Bishop Carroll faced a daunting task but had within him an abiding faith in the Blessed Virgin Mary and the power of her intercession.

Jesuit Bishop John Carroll, the first bishop and archbishop in the United States, and of Baltimore in his first pastoral letter of May 28, 1792, to the Catholics throughout the thirteen states, dedicated our country to the Mother of God.

He wrote: "I shall only add this my earnest request, that to the exercise of the sublimest virtues, faith, hope and charity, you will join a fervent and well-regulated devotion to the Holy Mother of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; that you will place great confidence in her in all your necessities..."

The Blessed Mother, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, has been the patroness of the United States since 1846 when so declared by the Bishops of the United States.

At this time in the trials of our nation and its religious freedom please make it a habit to pray for each state and each of its officials. Catholics can invoke the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, through "**Rosary for America**" available to print on the home page at www.cffor.org

Pope Adrian VI declared: "The Rosary is the scourge of the devil." Mary herself, immaculately conceived and full of grace, brings only fear and terror to the devil and his underlings. When we join her in the prayer she gave us, we receive her intercession and protection as we seek Christ."