



Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write today to invite you to a special Mass at the Basilica in Baltimore on Sunday, June 21 at 10:45 a.m. This national [opening Mass](#) of the Fortnight for Freedom kicks off a two-week period the Catholic bishops in the United States have set aside for prayer, education, and action to promote religious liberty.

This is the fourth annual Fortnight for Freedom and this year's Fortnight holds special significance for many Catholics in our Archdiocese in light of the recent unrest in parts of Baltimore City. As we consider [how to act](#) on the theme of this year's Fortnight, "The Freedom to Bear Witness," we reflect on the many needs in our city and elsewhere in our Archdiocese, the many people worthy of our love and our friendship, and we thank God for the gift of our Catholic faith, which compels our service to such people.

Sadly, there have been [efforts](#) by governments at all levels, as well as by institutions and individuals, to curb the public expression of religion, thereby reducing religious freedom to the freedom to worship. We are being told, in effect, to practice our faith within the walls of our churches. This, of course, runs counter to the example of Jesus Christ, whose public ministry continues to be a model for not only the Catholic Church but all Christian churches.

The Fortnight for Freedom seeks to call attention to the various threats to our religious liberty before this first and most fundamental freedom we enjoy as faithful Americans is no longer available to our children and to future generations.



I hope to see you on the 21st, and pray you'll join me in prayer for our Church and for our Nation.

Also, a [special collection](#) will be held in parishes throughout the Archdiocese this weekend to support Baltimore's [summer jobs programs](#) for youths. Your generous support of this collection is very much appreciated.

Faithfully in Christ,

*+ William E. Lori*

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore



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