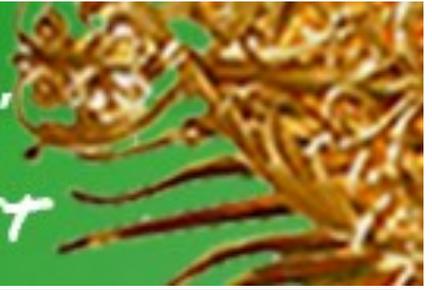




Pray for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty JOIN THE MOVEMENT



January 3: Friday Fast

Intention:

We pray that all those who are challenging the HHS mandate – whether family-owned businesses or non-profit service ministries – would have the strength to keep fighting for religious freedom.

Did you know?

[Many courts](#) have issued recent rulings in the HHS mandate cases because of the recent January 1, 2014 start date for enforcement of the mandate against certain religious non-profit organizations. Most of these rulings have thankfully gone in favor of the litigants so far, but we need to continue to pray for other courts and for Congress to provide immediate relief for *all* those affected by the mandate!

Quick Links

- ⇒ [Call to Prayer webpage](#)
- ⇒ [Call to Prayer Facebook group](#)
- ⇒ [Past weekly intentions and reflections](#)

Reflection:

This week, we continue to celebrate the [Christmas Season](#), a time when we can reflect on the roots of our



faith. It is a time when our faith becomes especially visible to the outside world, whether we decorate our yard with a beautiful Nativity scene or our home with a brightly-lit Christmas tree. When we consider how difficult it is to be Christian in some parts of the world, we are especially grateful for the gift of religious freedom in this country.

Unfortunately, however, this freedom has come under threat lately. The federal government has chosen this [January 1](#) to begin implementing its nationwide mandate forcing most Catholic universities, hospitals, and service ministries to violate Church teaching or face devastating fines. Faith-based organizations like these seek to practice what they preach. That is, they seek to live out the Gospel mandate to serve those whom Christ called “these least brothers of mine” (Mt. 25:40) while adhering to the tenets of our faith—including promoting the sanctity of human life. We pray that the courts will uphold our ability to live out the Gospel in its entirety!

VISIT WWW.USCCB.ORG/FAST TO SIGN THE FASTING PLEDGE & TO SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY E-MAIL REMINDERS & INTENTIONS, OR TEXT “FAST” TO 99000 TO RECEIVE WEEKLY TEXT MESSAGES.