


For the freedom of the Church



Pray

That the Church would have the space to carry out her mission of service and mercy for the whole world.

Reflect

The Church is the body of Christ, the pilgrim people of God. She is not simply another charitable organization. The Church is called to carry forward the mission of Jesus Christ in all times and places. Much current work for religious freedom asks for exemptions from the state. But we should keep in mind that the government is not granting us rights. Rather, the state is correctly acknowledging the right of the Church to fulfill her purposes. As Pope Francis, echoing Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, has said, the Church is not merely an “NGO” (non-governmental organization). The Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry out the mission of Christ, and a well-functioning government will recognize its own limits and allow the Church the space to do her work.



Act

Our freedom for mission is difficult to appreciate if it is not exercised. Get in touch with a local parish or diocese, find out what your local church is doing in your community, and see how you can get involved. Even if you don't have time to volunteer, prayer can be an important way to stay connected to the work.



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