



Friday Fast

For Life, Marriage & Religious Liberty

March 8: St. John of God

Intention:

For all people of faith who fight to preserve religious freedom, that the Lord will strengthen their resolve to hold firm in their witness.

Did you know?

A bill titled the "[Health Care Conscience Rights Act](#)" was just introduced in the House earlier this week by Rep. Diane Black. The bill would protect Americans' First Amendment rights by providing a full exemption for all those whose religious beliefs run counter to the HHS mandate. The bill would also protect institutions and individuals from forced participation in abortion. [Click here](#) to take action to support H.R. 940!

Quick Links

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

Reflection:

Religious freedom is a fundamental right not only for Catholics and Christians but for all human persons. In the U.S., freedom of religion is an [inalienable constitutional right](#) that protects citizens and institutions from government interference with the exercise of their religious beliefs. However, freedom of religion does not arise solely or originally from the U.S. Constitution. Rather, as the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council declared in [Dignitatis Humanae](#) (the Declaration on Religious Freedom), "the right to religious freedom has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person" (DH, 2).

Because men and women are created with reason and free will, they "are bound to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and His Church, and to embrace the truth they come to know, and to hold fast to it" (DH, 1). Thus, the U.S. Constitution simply secures the right that inherently belongs to each person by virtue of his or her personhood. The fact that religious freedom is rooted in the dignity of the human person reminds us that we are praying and fasting not for an abstract concept called religious freedom, but for the full dignity of all men and women, created to seek the truth and hold fast to it.

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.