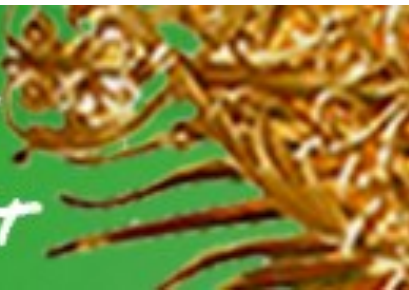




# Pray for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty JOIN THE MOVEMENT



## May 17: Friday before Pentecost

### Intention:

As we approach the feast of Pentecost, we pray for the Church and that our faith might not be simply a private matter, but rather that the Holy Spirit will help us witness to Christ in all areas of our lives.

### Did you know?

"This year's [Fortnight \[for Freedom\]](#) occurs just weeks before August 1, when the administration's mandate coercing us to violate our deeply-held beliefs will be enforced against most religious non-profits. During the Fortnight the Supreme Court's decisions on the definition of marriage will likely be handed down as well. Those decisions could have a profound impact on religious freedom for generations to come." Archbishop William E. Lori, [News Release](#) (May 13, 2013)

### Quick Links

- ⇒ [Call to Prayer webpage](#)
- ⇒ [Call to Prayer Facebook event](#)
- ⇒ [Previous weekly intentions/reflections](#)
- ⇒ [Fortnight for Freedom Facebook event](#)

### Reflection:

As faithful Catholics, the beliefs that we profess in Church on Sunday carry over into our personal and professional lives. Christ invites us into loving relationship with Him, and His love infuses our actions, helping us to love Him in return by following His commandments in our daily lives. However, the proposed [HHS "contraceptive mandate,"](#) in effect, attempts to restrict the practice of our faith to the private sphere. [As explained by the USCCB general counsel,](#) the mandate's current definition of "religious employer" (a definition used to determine which employers are exempted from the mandate) excludes "a wide array of employers that are undeniably religious," including organizations that "contribute most visibly to the common good through the provision of health, educational, and social services," such as Catholic schools and hospitals. Telling faith-based organizations that they are not "religious enough" to qualify for an exemption to the contraceptive mandate is a violation of religious freedom.

As we approach the feast of Pentecost, let us ardently pray to Christ to send forth His Spirit so that we will be filled with His peace and strength to live our faith at all times.

VISIT [WWW.USCCB.ORG/FAST](http://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.