

## Prayers for Adult Faith Formation Model – Handout #1

### Living the Witness of Religious Freedom: A Retreat for Parish Evangelization Teams

#### Opening Prayer

*O Glorious St. Thomas More,  
Patron of Statesmen, Politicians,  
Judges and Lawyers, your life of prayer and penance  
and your zeal for justice, integrity and firm principle  
in public and family life led you to the path of martyrdom and sainthood.  
Intercede for our Statesmen, Politicians, Judges and Lawyers,  
that they may be courageous and effective  
in their defense and promotion of the sanctity of human life — the foundation of all other human  
rights. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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#### Closing Prayer

*O God our Creator,  
from your provident hand we have received  
our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.  
You have called us as your people and given us  
the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God,  
and your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,  
you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,  
bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel  
to every corner of society.*

*We ask you to bless us  
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.  
Give us the strength of mind and heart  
to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;  
give us courage in making our voices heard  
on behalf of the rights of your Church  
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.*

*Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,  
a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters  
gathered in your Church  
in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,  
so that, with every trial withstood*

*and every danger overcome—  
for the sake of our children, our grandchildren,  
and all who come after us—  
this great land will always be "one nation, under God,  
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

[www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/upload/St-Thomas-More-English.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/upload/St-Thomas-More-English.pdf)

1 John 3:1-2

“See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

*Populorum Progressio*, no. 47

“But these efforts, as well as public and private allocations of gifts, loans and investments, are not enough. It is not just a question of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty. It is not just a question of fighting wretched conditions, though this is an urgent and necessary task. It involves building a human community where men can live truly human lives, free from discrimination on account of race, religion or nationality, free from servitude to other men or to natural forces which they cannot yet control satisfactorily. It involves building a human community where liberty is not an idle word, where the needy Lazarus can sit down with the rich man at the same banquet table.”

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