

The Freedom to Be Catholic and American



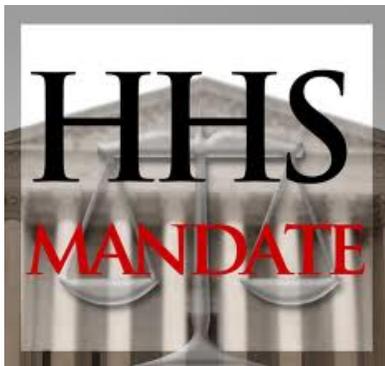
“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America

I told the story some time ago about an incident that happened at work when I inquired about using an empty conference room to conduct a lunchtime bible study with a coworker, a brother Catholic. Another of my coworkers, a fallen away Catholic, commented that because of the “separation of church and state” I probably wouldn’t be allowed to use the facility. While probably well intentioned, my coworker understood neither her Catholic faith nor her American citizenship, and that is all too common.

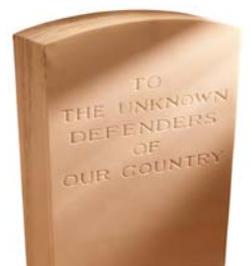


The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States quite plainly states that the government has no right to restrict the free expression and practice of religion, nor free speech. Read it again, you can’t stretch it enough to make it restrict freedom of religion.



In recent months the Catholic Church has come into the crosshairs of ambitious politicians who seek to destroy her while promoting their own brand of atheism. Their silver bullet is abortion and contraception which they say the Church must provide to her employees and families. Lawmakers and politicians are using sex to scatter the flock, and where catechesis has been weak they are effective.

Our God-given freedoms have been purchased for us with the blood and sacrifice of devoted men and women over the last 236 years. We give honor to their sacrifices by preserving and protecting our way of life for all citizens and all generations, not changing it because of coercion and deceptions.

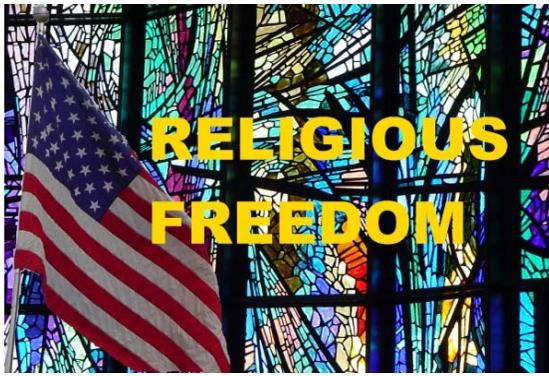


We are responsible to behave and speak intelligently and sensibly and we should strive to do that. At times in this nation’s history certain laws, lawmakers, and members of our citizenry have behaved terribly irresponsibly to fellow human beings and that legacy is being played out today with great bitterness between the races. Foolish people do foolish things.



It’s easy to take what we have for granted, especially if we’ve never seen how people live in other countries. The quote from my coworker betrays a mangled understanding of what it means to be American and Catholic. These misconceptions are well fed by a very liberally biased media which encourages apathy, complacency and destruction of the family.

My coworker may or may not be culpable for her ignorance, but it’s the same ignorance that guides the thoughts and actions of countless Americans, Catholic or otherwise, regarding contraception, abortion or birth control and the family.

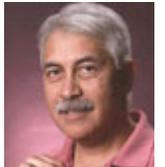


Freedom of speech and religion are not only our rights, they are also our responsibility. Our government cannot impose a particular religion upon the citizenry nor can they deny any. Yet it is moving toward penalizing the Church for not performing homosexual marriage (Prop 8), not placing children for adoption by same sex couples (Catholic Charities of San Francisco) and requiring Catholic hospitals to perform abortions and prescribe contraceptives. To forcibly diminish Catholicism from the American

landscape would be the introduction of atheism as THE government sponsored religion. And yes, atheism is a religion. Our voices or our silence will stand in judgment of our selves and our generation. Lord, have mercy on us!

Ed Ibarra

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May business meeting is on Tuesday May 7th at 7:00pm. Second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, May 11th at 5:45pm. And don't forget to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually

Pray that God give us the grace to seek Him in prayer. Pray for the men and women who serve in Law Enforcement and the Military. Pray that politicians have conversion of heart. Pray for strong families. Above all: pray that Holy Mother Church in America can withstand the buffets and spitting of her enemies.