



## Lecturer's Notes: The Freedom to Be Catholic and American, Part II

**“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



My Brothers,

I have been talking and writing about how our government has been encroaching on our freedoms for a while. I know that some of you, because of past political affiliations have not paid much attention to those comments. Don't get me wrong, I have never meant to bring partisan politics within our ranks. I have been merely pointing out things that are indications of how much the government has been encroaching on our lives. Now, even the most faithful supporter of our current administration cannot deny what is happening.



First, the Mandate from Health and Human Services to force religious institutions to pay for health insurance for things that goes against their conscience and the so called “accommodation,” which, in reality, did not accommodate much of anything. If you haven't done so already, I suggest that you read the formal, 21 page response prepared by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, which can be found at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org). It explains in detail, how, as faithful Catholics, our institutions and as individuals can and will not accept the Mandate or the “accommodation.”

Then, as if that were not enough, first our Vice President, a supposed Catholic, and then our President making public announcement about how those who suffer from same sex attraction should be allowed to “marry.” (“Same sex attraction” is the more descriptive term for what the biased media calls “homosexual” or “gay,” as if that were a race or ethnic background, like Italian or Portuguese.) We as Catholics know that, in spite of being accused as being bigoted, we truly show our love for those that suffer from those attractions, by not enabling them. It would be as if I went out and purchased illegal drugs for my former drug addicted neighbors and told them that it was alright for them to continue to use and destroy their lives.

We have multiple opportunities within the next couple of months to send a message

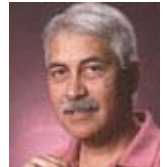




that we will not accept attacks on our religious liberties. We can voice our opinions through letter (both to our politicians and to our local media). We can voice our opinions in the ballot boxes on Election Day (perhaps the most important way of doing so). We can also send a message by making time to go see “For Greater Glory,” a movie partially financed by the Knights of Columbus about attacks on the religious liberties of Catholics at the turn of the 20th century. It will be showing at Brenden beginning on June 1st. I invite you to find the time to go. I also encourage you to let all of your friends and families know about the movie, which stars Andy Garcia, Peter O’Toole, Eva Longoria, Ruben Blades, and Eduardo Verástegui (from the movie Bella). If the movie sells out, as it should, it will send a loud message both to Hollywood and to Washington DC about how important our freedom of religion is to us.

**Ed Ibarra,  
Lecturer,**

**with a little help from a friend**



June business meeting is on Tuesday, June 5th at 7:00pm. Second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, June 11th at 5:45pm. It would be nice to see others of you instead of the same seven that I see each month. Won’t you join us?