### Are you praying your Morning Offering?

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM — SACREDHEARTSPNJ

#### **DAILY INTENTIONS**

Sunday That the Gospel message of Joy, Mercy and

Reconciliation, may open hearts and minds to Christ

Our Savior

Monday For the Sick and Persons with Disabilities

Tuesday For Those who Suffer Discrimination regardless of its

source (Age, Gender, Race, Religion, Disability, National

and Ethnic Origin, Sexual Identify, Social Status)

Wednesday For Military & Emergency Response Services Personnel

Thursday For all Pregnant Mothers and their Unborn Children

Friday For all Civil and Religious Leaders

Saturday For our Families, our Bishop James & his intentions, and

the intentions written in our Parish Intention Book



## HELP SAVE OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Text "Freedom" to 377377

to defend your right to live your faith.

As Catholics we are constantly called to live out our faith in our daily lives. In our charities, we comfort the sick, feed the hungry, care for the poor, and protect life. In the market-place, our values guide us. We strive everywhere to practice what we preach.

Across America, our right to live out our faith is being threatened - from Washington forcing Catholic institutions to provide services that contradict our beliefs, to state governments prohibiting our charities from serving the most vulnerable. And around the world, it's even worse - Catholics face persecution and even death for their witness.

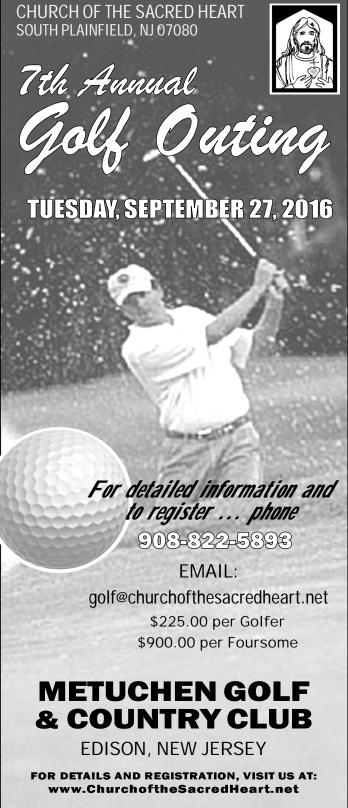
These rights are fundamental. They belong to each and every human being. We cannot let them be trampled. We cannot remain silent.

Please join the movement to protect our right to live out our faith. Sign up to learn how you can help save our religious freedom.

Text "Freedom" to 377377 Or visit www.Fortnight4Freedom.org

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

MSg&Data Rates May Apply. Reply STOP to opt-out. Reply HELP or contact FREEDOM@USCCB.ORG for help. We'll txt you approx. 2x/mo.



### REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

SUSTAINABILITY TIP: Driving Style — Speeding and unnecessary acceleration reduce mileage by up to 33%, waste gas and money, and increase your carbon footprint.

- From Catholic Climate Covenant

# WITNESSES TO FREEDOM STS. THOMAS MORE AND JOHN FISHER



"I die the king's good servant, but God's first."

Saints Thomas More and John Fisher were Renaissance men. Talented and energetic, they contributed to the humanist scholarship of early modern England. More wrote theological and philosophical treatises, while making a career as a lawyer and government official. Bishop John Fisher worked as an administrator at Cambridge, confronted the challenge Martin Luther presented to Christian Europe, and most importantly served as Bishop of Rochester. As a bishop, he is notable for his dedication to preaching at a time when bishops tended to focus on politics. These men were brilliant. They both corresponded with Erasmus, who helped Bishop Fisher learn Greek and Hebrew, and who also famously referred to More as a man *omnium horarium*, a man of all seasons.

Above all their accomplishments, these men bore witness to a deep faith in Christ and his Church. More considered joining religious life and was assiduous in his devotional practices. As a married man, he committed himself wholly to his vocation as a father. At the time, disciplinary practices with children tended to be severe, but More's children testify to his warmth, patience, and generosity.

St. John Fisher was a model shepherd and demonstrated remarkable humility. He remained in the small Diocese

of Rochester his entire episcopal ministry, devoting himself to his local church rather than seeking promotion to a larger, more powerful diocese.

More and Fisher are well-known for opposing King Henry's divorce. Ultimately, it was their refusal to sign an oath of supremacy that led them to be executed. King Henry VIII claimed to be the supreme head of the Church in England, asserting sovereign power over English Christians. Neither Fisher nor More could abide this claim, and their steadfastness to their consciences put them in conflict with the king. They were convicted of treason.

When More made his way to the gallows, he is said to have stated, "I die the King's good servant, but God's first." Both More and Fisher were patriots. They never rose up to incite rebellion or foment revolution. They were no traitors. But when the law of the king came into conflict with the law of Christ, they chose Christ. These men gave their lives for the freedom of the Church and for freedom of conscience. They bear witness to the truth that no government can make a claim on a person's soul.

Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, pray that we too will be good servants to our country, but God's first!



Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty www.usccb.org/freedom | Twitter: @USCCBFreedom Text "Freedom" to 377377 to receive updates

