

V.

Jesus, victor over sin and death...

Jesus, source of light and hope...

Jesus, fullness of truth and mystery...

Jesus, teacher of seeking hearts...

Jesus, healer of body and soul...

Jesus, bringer of mercy and justice...

Jesus, who humble the heart and mind... Jesus, release of captives...

Jesus, voice against violence...

Jesus, courage for the lowly/down-trodden... Jesus, origin of all authority and power...

Jesus, true lawgiver...

Jesus, unity of order and passion...

Jesus, freedom of the Spirit...

Jesus, obedient Son of the Father...

R.

Free our hearts.

V.

For the freedom to love...

For the freedom to believe...

For the freedom to hope...

For the freedom to worship...

For the freedom to serve in charity...

For the freedom to care for the suffering... For the freedom to comfort the sick...

For the freedom to feed the hungry...

For the freedom to shelter the homeless...

For the freedom to proclaim the Gospel...

For the freedom to walk in chastity...

For the freedom to live in peace...

For the freedom to work in good conscience... For the freedom to stand in solidarity...

For the freedom to seek justice...

For the freedom to reject sin...

For the freedom to reject coercion...

For the freedom to reject falsehood...

For the freedom to reject evil temptations... For the freedom to reject injustice...

R.

Give us your grace.

For closing Prayer...see insert.

Holy Hour for Religious Liberty

Introduction

As Catholics in this conversation [about religious liberty], we need to remember that our faith in Jesus Christ is meant to have consequences. Not only in our own lives and in our own homes, but also in the society we live in. As Catholics, we have a viewpoint that our society needs to hear — a beautiful vision of human dignity and human society that we are called to share with our neighbors. ...Let's pray for one another and let's pray for our country. Especially for our leaders. And let's ask our Blessed Mother, Mary Immaculate, the patroness of this great country, to help all of us to become stronger in our understanding of the importance of religion in our society. ~ *Archbishop Jose Gomez*

Creed / Our Father / Hail Mary (3x) / Glory Be

Reflection Before the First Decade

"We are Catholics. We are Americans. We are proud to be both, grateful for the gift of faith which is ours as Christian disciples, and grateful for the gift of liberty which is ours as American citizens. To be Catholic and American should mean not having to choose one over the other. Our allegiances are distinct, but they need not be contradictory, and should instead be complementary. That is the teaching of our Catholic faith, which obliges us to work together with fellow citizens for the common good of all who live in this land. That is the vision of our founding and our Constitution, which guarantees citizens of all religious faiths the right to contribute to our common life together." ~ "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty: A Statement on Religious Liberty," *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, April 12, 2012*

Let us contemplate the Agony in the Garden and let us pray for Pope Francis, bishops, priests, and all the faithful, that they may be strengthened by the grace of the Holy Spirit to continue proclaiming the intrinsic dignity of all human life from conception to natural death, the unique meaning of marriage, and the importance of religious liberty for all.

1st Decade

Musical Reflection

Let us contemplate the Scourging at the Pillar and let us pray for all those who serve us in public office, that they may have the wisdom and courage to uphold conscience rights and protect all people from being forced to violate their moral and religious convictions.

2nd Decade

Reflection Before the 3rd Decade

Next to America's broad collection of evangelical churches, baptized Catholics now make up the biggest religious community in the United States. They serve in large numbers in Congress. They have a majority on the Supreme Court. They play commanding roles in the professions and in business leadership. They've climbed, at long last, the Mt. Zion of social acceptance. So goes the tale. What this has actually meant for the direction of American life, however, is another matter. Catholic statistics once seemed impressive. They filled many of us with tribal pride. But they didn't stop a new and quite alien national landscape, a "next America," from emerging right under our noses. ...The "next America" has been in its chrysalis a long time. Whether people will be happy when it fully emerges remains to be seen. But the future is not predestined. We create it with our choices. And the most important choice we can make is both terribly simple and terribly hard: to actually live what the Church teaches, to win the hearts of others by our witness, and to renew the soul of our country with the courage of our own Christian faith and integrity. There is no more revolutionary act. *From "Catholics and the Next America" by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M.Cap., September 17, 2010*

Let us contemplate the Crowning with Thorns and let us pray for all of us gathered here before the Lord in His Most Blessed Sacrament, that we may live our faith in confidence and charity, trust in the Lord's mercy, and witness to Him so as to invite others to seek His Face.

Third Decade

Musical Reflection

Let us contemplate the Carrying of the Cross to Calvary and let us pray for greater respect for the inviolable dignity of all human life from conception to natural death, especially for the most vulnerable among us, including the unborn, the poor, the immigrant, the infirm and elderly. for the healing of troubled and broken marriages and families, and for renewed understanding of and reverence for God's loving plan for marriage

as the permanent, faithful and fruitful union of one man and one woman. Let us pray to the Lord.

4th Decade

Reflection Before the 5th Decade

Among the things which concern the good of the Church and indeed the welfare of society here on earth—things therefore which are always and everywhere to be kept secure and defended against all injury—this certainly is preeminent, namely, that the Church should enjoy that full measure of freedom which her care for salvation of men requires. This freedom is sacred, because the only-begotten Son endowed with it the Church which He purchased with His blood. It is so much the property of the Church that to act against it is to act against the will of God. The freedom of the Church is the fundamental principle in what concerns the relations between the Church and governments and the whole civil order.

Declaration on Religious Liberty (Dignitatis Humanae), no. 13 December 7, 1965

Let us contemplate the Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord and let us pray for the protection of conscience rights and religious liberty, that all people of good will may work together against the increasing threats to these fundamental rights. We pray especially for people throughout the world who are suffering for their faith.

5th Decade

Hail Holy Queen

Litany for Liberty

INTRODUCTION: Christ the Lord has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Let us turn to him in humble but fervent petition, seeking the grace to root out from our hearts all trace of darkness, and all that holds us back from walking in the full freedom of the children of God. As Christ is our great model for that inner freedom, which enables us to do the right, let us turn to him with confidence that we, too, may follow him to the fullness of spiritual freedom.

V. Lord, have mercy;...**R. Lord have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy; ...**R. Christ have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy; ...**R. Lord have mercy.**

CLOSING PRAYER (Together)

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.**

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