

**CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF FAITH
THROUGH THE TEACHING OF VATICAN II**

*Holy Hour for July 2013
Declaration on Religious Liberty
Dignitatis Humanae, 7 December 1965*



As all men and women are bound to seek the truth we pray the find it in Christ.

As the Blessed Sacrament is exposed during this series of Holy Hours to mark the YEAR OF FAITH let us sing each time the hymn that bears these words from St Paul 'We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight'

'WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT'

Celebration For Everyone No 789/ Laudate No 284

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who in your inscrutable providence will that every person has a right to religious liberty and freedom, grant we pray to those who suffer religious persecution a spirit of patience and charity and to those who govern with authority over us, the wisdom and integrity to safeguard the freedom of religion, peace and prosperity throughout the whole world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Reader 1:

'Modern man (male and female) is subjected to a variety of pressures and runs the risk of being prevented from following his own free judgement. On the other hand, there are many who, under the pretext of freedom, seem inclined to reject all submission to authority and make light of the duty of obedience. For this reason this Vatican Council urges everyone, especially those responsible for educating others, to try to form men and women with a respect for the moral order who will obey lawful authority and be lovers of true freedom — men and women, that is who will form their own judgements in the light of truth, direct their activities with a sense of responsibility, and strive for what is true and just in willing cooperation with others.'

(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.

Declaration on Religious Liberty (Dignitatis Humanae) No 8)

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

READER 2:

FIRST READING

MACCABEES 2:49-52, 57-64 (*Lectionary III, pg 545*)

'ALL WHO HOPE IN GOD WILL NOT BE FOUND TO FALTER'

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

Celebration For Everyone No 478/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 470/ Laudate No 898

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of our response to God's call to freedom for all.

Reader 1:

'One of the key truths in Catholic teaching, a truth that is contained in the word of God and constantly preached by the Fathers, is that the human response to God by faith ought to be free, and that nobody is to be forced to embrace the faith against their will. The act of faith is of its very nature a free act. Men and women redeemed by Christ the saviour and called through Jesus Christ to be adopted children of God, cannot give their adherence to God when he reveals himself unless, drawn by the Father, they submit to God with a faith that is reasonable and free. It is therefore fully in accordance with the nature of faith that in religious matters every form of coercion by men should be excluded.'

(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.

Declaration on Religious Liberty (Dignitatis Humanae) No 10)

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

SECOND READING **ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 4:1-5, 18-21** (*Lectionary III, pg 549*)
‘THE COURT REPEATED THE WARNINGS AND THEN RELEASED THEM’

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

Celebration For Everyone No 398/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 461/ Laudate No 801

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of our response to God’s call to freedom for all.

Reader 1:

‘Every family, in that it is a society with its own basic rights, has the right freely to organise its own religious life in the home under the control of the parents. These have the right to decide in accordance with their own religious beliefs the form of religious upbringing which is to be given to their children. The civil authority must therefore recognise the right of parents to choose with genuine freedom schools or other means of education. Parents should not be subjected directly or indirectly to unjust burdens because of this freedom of choice...the protection of the right to religious freedom is the common responsibility of individual citizens, social groups, civil authorities, the Church and other religious communities. Each of these has its own special responsibility in the matter according to its particular duty to promote the common good.’

(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.

Declaration on Religious Liberty (Dignitatis Humanae) No 5,6)

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

GOSPEL READING **MATTHEW 22:15-21** (*Lectionary III, pg 585*)
‘GIVE BACK TO CAESAR WHAT BELONGS TO CAESAR
AND TO GOD WHAT BELONGS TO GOD.’

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

AT THE NAME OF JESUS,

Celebration For Everyone No 59/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 147/ Laudate No 762

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of our response to God’s call to freedom for all.

Leader: In humility of heart, let us pray to God who cares for everyone.

Response to each prayer: Lord, strengthen the faith of your people

Reader 2:

- Keep alive in your Church the strength of faith and the joy of believing. We pray to the Lord
- Defend the Church against all danger; be the strength of Patrick, our bishop and protect Benedict our Pope We pray to the Lord
- Hold in your healing hand all those who are persecuted for their beliefs and grant religious liberty to all those who search and strive for truth and freedom in this life. We pray to the Lord
- Bring your light to those who do not believe and to all those who, for whatever reason, have lost faith in you, in the Church and in humanity. We pray to the Lord
- Guide the rulers of all nations that they may respect human dignity and uphold for every one the right to religious liberty. We pray to the Lord
- Give to the peoples of the world the peace of Christ—a peace the world cannot give, and may those who hunger for peace and justice find their fill in the truth you bear to all. We pray to the Lord
- Grant to those who have died the joy of standing before you as Saints among saints in the halls of heaven. We pray to the Lord

BENEDICTION PRAYERS AND HYMNS NOW FOLLOW

ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL

Celebration For Everyone No 22/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 121/ Laudate No 466