



Wednesday, February 25, 2014

Dear Friends in Christ,

As summer approaches and we begin to look forward to the slower pace that accompanies it, I ask you to consider setting aside some time in the coming weeks to reflect on the extraordinary political and religious freedom we too often take for granted as Americans.

Perhaps there is no time more important to celebrate this freedom than when we are called upon to exercise our right to vote - to choose the women and men we believe will best serve the common good by enacting laws that respect life and human dignity.

This opportunity will soon be upon us during the June 24 primary election, and I urge you to educate yourself, pray for guidance, and exercise your responsibility as faithful citizens by making sure you cast your vote in this important election.

Through the [Maryland Catholic Conference](#), the Archdiocese provides a vitally important service to Catholic voters by surveying candidates about their stances on issues important to Catholics. The candidates' responses are available in [The Catholic Review](#), on the [Archdiocesan website](#), and in parish bulletins throughout the Archdiocese.

Just a few days before the election, we will mark the start of the third [Fortnight for Freedom](#), an initiative of the Catholic Church in the United States aimed at providing Catholics with opportunities for education, prayer, and peaceful action regarding the issue of religious liberty. Everyone in the Archdiocese is invited to attend the national opening Mass of the Fortnight (also the vigil Mass for the Feast of Corpus Christi), to be held June 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the [Basilica](#) in Baltimore. You are also invited to take part in the many service opportunities and events planned in and around the Archdiocese during the Fortnight. The complete list of events can be [found here](#).

As Catholics and faithful citizens, we have the power to transform the culture in which we live, but only if we fully participate in the democratic process and work to preserve the many freedoms we are blessed to enjoy as Americans. May God bless you, our Nation, and keep us always in His love!

Faithfully in Christ,

+ William E. Lori

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