

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

April 20, 2012

Dear Father:

This summer, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will conduct a "Fortnight for Freedom" beginning with the vigil of the feasts of Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fischer and culminating with Independence Day. The purpose of this effort is to issue a nationwide call to defend religious liberty and to urge the laity to work to protect the first freedom of the Bill of Rights. We hope that this effort will not only provide a forum for action about these issues but also influence other issues pending in Springfield and Washington.

The Illinois bishops' contribution to the "Fortnight for Freedom" is to launch the Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network, or I-CAN.

I am asking that you set aside a few minutes at the time of announcements during the weekend Masses of June 23 and June 30 to talk about our obligation to be formed and informed on the issues of the day, and to ask parishioners to fill out I-CAN sign-up pew cards. These cards, along with bulletin inserts publicizing the "Fortnight for Freedom," will be sent to every parish statewide by June 8. The Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) will have additional resources available on its website, [www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org](http://www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org).

Lay Catholics need to become more engaged with state and federal policies that affect the Church and her mission. The loss of state foster care and adoption contracts for Catholic Charities and the federal HHS mandate forcing insurance coverage of abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilizations highlight the need for Catholics to be informed about the Church's role in the public square.

I-CAN allows the laity to sign up for occasional email updates from CCI. Catholic conferences in other states are developing similar networks as we recognize the need for more creative forms of engagement for the laity.

CCI this spring conducted pilot projects for I-CAN sign-ups across the state, garnering a very positive response. Lay Catholics want a voice, especially when the government is increasingly encroaching on the mission and the operations of the Church. We need the enthusiastic participation of every pastor to make I-CAN a success.

I will pray for your efforts during the "Fortnight for Freedom," and I urge you to contact the Catholic Conference of Illinois at 312-368-1066 if you need more information. Thank you.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago



## Diocese of Rockford

555 Colman Center Drive  
P.O. Box 7044  
Rockford, Illinois 61125

(815) 399-4300  
Fax (815) 399-4769

Office of the Bishop

April 18, 2012

Dear Monsignor/Father:

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) this summer is conducting a "Fortnight for Freedom" to begin with the vigil of the feasts of St. Thomas More and St. John Fischer and culminate with Independence Day. The purpose of this effort is to issue a call to defend religious liberty, and to urge the laity to work to protect the First Freedom of the Bill of Rights. We hope that this will not only be a forum for action about these issues, but also influence other issues pending in Springfield and Washington.

The Illinois bishops' contribution to the "Fortnight for Freedom" is to launch the Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network, or I-CAN.

I am asking that you set aside a few minutes at the time of announcements during the weekend Masses of June 23 and June 30 to talk about our obligation to be formed and informed on the issues of the day, and to ask parishioners to fill out I-CAN sign-up pew cards. The cards and bulletin inserts publicizing the "Fortnight for Freedom" will be sent to every parish statewide by June 8. The Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) will have additional resources available on its website.

Lay Catholics need to become more engaged with state and federal policies that affect the Church and her mission. The loss of state foster care and adoption contracts for Catholic Charities and the federal HHS mandate forcing insurance coverage of abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilizations highlight the need for Catholics to be informed about the Church's role in the public square.

I-CAN allows the laity to sign up for occasional email updates from CCI. Catholic conferences in other states are developing similar networks, as we recognize the need for more creative forms of engagement for the laity.

CCI this spring conducted pilot projects for I-CAN sign-ups across the state, garnering a very positive response. Lay Catholics want a voice, especially when the government is increasingly encroaching on the mission and the operations of the Church. We need the enthusiastic participation of every pastor to make I-CAN a success.

I will pray for your efforts during the "Fortnight for Freedom," and urge you to contact the Catholic Conference of Illinois at 312-368-1066 if you need more information.

With every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, D.D., J.C.D.  
Apostolic Administrator  
Diocese of Rockford



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*Diocese of Belleville*  
*Office of the Bishop*

May 2, 2012  
St. Athanasius  
Bishop and Doctor

Dear Priests, Deacons, and Parish Life Coordinators,

Peace be with you! As you know, next month, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has invited every Diocese to conduct a "Fortnight for Freedom" beginning with the vigil of the feasts of Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fischer, June 21 and culminating July 4, Independence Day. The purpose of this effort is to issue a nationwide call to defend religious liberty and to urge the laity to work to protect the first freedom of the Bill of Rights. We hope that this effort will not only provide a forum for action about these issues, but also influence other issues pending in Springfield and Washington.

The Bishops of the Province of Chicago are participating in the "Fortnight for Freedom" by launching the Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network, or I-CAN.

**I am asking that every parish set aside a few minutes at the time of announcements during the weekend Masses of June 23 and June 30 to talk about our obligation to be formed and informed on the issues of the day, and to ask parishioners to fill out I-CAN sign-up pew cards.** These cards, along with bulletin inserts publicizing the "Fortnight for Freedom," will be sent to every parish statewide by June 8. The Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) will have additional resources available on its website, [www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org](http://www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org).

I urge the Christian Faithful to become more engaged with state and federal policies that affect the Church and her mission. The loss of state foster care and adoption contracts for Catholic Charities and the federal HHS mandate forcing insurance coverage of abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilizations highlight the need for Catholics to be informed about the Church's role in the public square.

I-CAN allows the Christian Faithful to sign up for occasional email updates from the Catholic Conference of Illinois. Catholic conferences in other states are developing similar networks as we recognize the need for more creative forms of engagement for the laity.

CCI this spring conducted pilot projects for I-CAN sign-ups across the state, garnering a very positive response. Lay Catholics want a voice, especially when the government is increasingly encroaching on the mission and the operations of the Church. We need the enthusiastic participation of the Pastor, Administrators, and Parish Life Coordinators of every parish to make this I-CAN effort a success.

I urge you to join me in praying often for our government leaders. Pray that they will develop policies that respect the religious liberty of all people. I will pray for the success of your efforts during the "Fortnight for Freedom." Please feel free to contact the Catholic Conference of Illinois (312-368-1066) for assistance and additional information.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edward K. Braxton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "E".

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton  
Bishop of Belleville



## Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington Street • P.O. Box 3187 • Springfield, Illinois 62708-3187  
www.dio.org 217-698-8500 FAX 217-698-0802

Office of the Bishop

May 19, 2012

Dear Priests, Parish Life Coordinators and Staff of the Catholic Pastoral Center,

This summer, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will conduct a "Fortnight for Freedom" beginning with the vigil of the feasts of Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fisher and culminating with Independence Day. The purpose of this effort is to issue a nationwide call to defend religious liberty and to urge the laity to work to protect the first freedom of the Bill of Rights. We hope that this effort will not only provide a forum for action about these issues but also influence other issues pending in Springfield and Washington.

A number of liturgical, homiletic and informational resources are attached. Others are available at [www.fortnight4freedom.org](http://www.fortnight4freedom.org).

I will be celebrating a Mass for the Fortnight for Freedom at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 5:15 PM on Friday, June 22, the second anniversary of my installation as Bishop of Springfield in Illinois. All are welcome and priests are invited to concelebrate.

The Illinois bishops' contribution to the "Fortnight for Freedom" is to launch the Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network, or I-CAN, which allows the laity to sign up for occasional email updates from the Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI). Catholic conferences in other states are developing similar networks.

I am asking that you set aside a few minutes at the time of announcements during the weekend Masses of June 23 and June 30 to talk about our obligation to be formed and informed on the issues of the day, and to ask parishioners to fill out I-CAN sign-up pew cards. These cards, along with bulletin inserts publicizing the "Fortnight for Freedom," will be sent to every parish statewide by June 8. The Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) will have additional resources available on its website, [www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org](http://www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org).

Lay Catholics need to become more engaged with state and federal policies that affect the Church and her mission. The loss of state foster care and adoption contracts for Catholic Charities and the federal HHS mandate forcing insurance coverage of abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilizations highlight the need for Catholics to be informed about the Church's role in the public square.

I will pray for your efforts during the "Fortnight for Freedom," and I urge you to contact the Catholic Conference of Illinois at 312-368-1066 if you need more information. Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*† Thomas John Paprocki*

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois



May 21, 2012

Dear Father,

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) this summer is conducting a *Fortnight for Freedom* to begin with the vigil of the memorials of St. Thomas More and St. John Fischer and culminate with Independence Day. The purpose of this effort is to issue a call to defend religious liberty and to urge the laity to work to protect the First Freedom of the Bill of Rights. We hope that this will be not only a forum for action about these issues, but also an influence on other issues pending in Springfield and Washington.

The Illinois bishops' contribution to the *Fortnight for Freedom* is to launch the Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network, or I-CAN.

I am asking that you set aside a few minutes at the time of announcements during the weekend Masses of June 23 and June 30 to talk about our obligation to be formed and informed on the issues of the day and to ask parishioners to fill out I-CAN sign-up pew cards. The cards and bulletin inserts publicizing the *Fortnight for Freedom* will be sent to every parish statewide by June 8. The Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) will have additional resources available on its Web site.

Lay Catholics, both as citizens and Church members, need to become more engaged with state and federal policies that affect the Church and her mission. The loss of state foster care and adoption contracts for Catholic Charities and the federal HHS mandate forcing insurance coverage of abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilizations highlight the need for Catholics to be informed about the Church's role in the public square.

I-CAN allows the laity to sign up for occasional e-mail updates from CCI. Catholic conferences in other states are developing similar networks, as we recognize the need for more creative forms of engagement for the laity.

CCI this spring conducted pilot projects for I-CAN sign-ups across the state, garnering a very positive response. Lay Catholics want a voice, especially when the government is increasingly encroaching on the mission and the operations of the Church. We need the enthusiastic participation of every pastor to make I-CAN a success.

I will pray for your efforts during the *Fortnight for Freedom*, and I urge you to contact the Catholic Conference of Illinois at (312) 368-1066 if you need more information. Thank you, and may God bless you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Daniel Conlon".

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon  
Bishop of Joliet

MOST REV. DANIEL R. JENKY, C.S.C.  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF PEORIA



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
419 N.E. MADISON AVENUE  
PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61603  
PHONE: 309-671-1550  
FAX: 309-671-1576

May 30, 2012

Dear Monsignor/Father,

This summer, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will conduct a "Fortnight for Freedom" beginning with the vigil of the feasts of Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fischer and culminating with Independence Day. The purpose of this effort is to issue a nationwide call to defend religious liberty and to urge the laity to work to protect the first freedom of the Bill of Rights. We hope that this effort will not only provide a forum for action about these issues but also influence other issues pending in Springfield and Washington.

The Illinois bishops' contribution to the "Fortnight for Freedom" is to launch the Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network, or I-CAN.

I am asking that before July 4, 2012 you encourage your parishioners to fill out the I-CAN sign-up pew cards. These cards will be sent to every parish statewide by June 8th. The Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) will have additional resources available on its website, [www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org](http://www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org).

Lay Catholics need to become more engaged with state and federal policies that affect the Church and her mission. The loss of state foster care and adoption contracts for Catholic Charities and the federal HHS mandate forcing insurance coverage of abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilizations highlight the need for Catholics to be informed about the Church's role in the public square. I-CAN allows the laity to sign up for occasional email updates from CCI. Catholic conferences in other states are developing similar networks as we recognize the need for more creative forms of engagement for the laity.

CCI this spring conducted pilot projects for I-CAN sign-ups across the state, garnering a very positive response. Lay Catholics want a voice, especially when the government is increasingly encroaching on the mission and the operations of the Church. We need the enthusiastic participation of every pastor to make I-CAN a success.

I will pray for your efforts during the "Fortnight for Freedom," and I urge you to contact the Catholic Conference of Illinois at 312-368-1066 if you need more information. Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

✱Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.  
BISHOP OF PEORIA