

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WCC COMMENTS ON SUPREME COURT RULING

Today the Supreme Court ruled correctly that the free exercise of religion is not confined to belief or creed," said WCC Executive Director John Huebscher. Rather, as Justice Kennedy wrote in his concurring opinion, the free exercise of religion also means "The right to express those beliefs and to establish one religious (or non-religious) self-definition in the political, civic and economic life of our larger community."

As we near the July 4th celebration of our freedom as a nation, this ruling reminds us that our ongoing American experiment with freedom has ample room for diversity of backgrounds and for religious creeds.

As Pope Francis recently said, "A healthy pluralism, one which genuinely respects differences and values them as such, does not entail privatizing religions in an attempt to reduce them to the quiet obscurity of the individual's conscience or to relegate them to the enclosed precincts of churches, synagogues, or mosques." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 255)

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