

## DECLARATION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

### ***DIGNITATIS HUMANAЕ***

DECEMBER 7, 1965

This declaration started out as a chapter, and later an appendix, of the Decree on Ecumenism.

Prior to the Council, the Church did not consider religious liberty to be a universal human right. The Church's position was that "error has no rights." Hence, where Catholics were in the minority, the Church fought for religious freedom, but where they were in the majority, it suppressed other religions. The Council Fathers declare religious freedom to be a human right, based not on the correct discernment of religious truth, but on the dignity of the human person. (#2)