



“OPERATION MORNINGSTAR”

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Bishops condemn same-sex marriage in New York

After New York passed a bill recognizing same-sex marriage, Archbishop Timothy Dolan and the other bishops of the state issued a joint statement: “The passage by the Legislature of a bill to alter radically and forever humanity’s historic understanding of marriage leaves us deeply disappointed and troubled.

“We strongly uphold the Catholic Church’s clear teaching that we always treat our homosexual brothers and sisters with respect, dignity and love. But we just as strongly affirm that marriage is the joining of one man and one woman in a lifelong, loving union that is open to children, ordered for the good of those children and the spouses themselves.

“This definition cannot change, though we realize that our beliefs about the nature of marriage will continue to be ridiculed, and that some will even now attempt to enact government sanctions against churches and religious organizations that preach these timeless truths.

“We worry that both marriage and the family will be undermined by this tragic presumption of government in passing this legislation that attempts to redefine these cornerstones of civilization.

“Our society must regain what it appears to have lost – a true understanding of the meaning and the place of marriage, as revealed by God, grounded in nature, and respected by America’s foundational principles.”

See USCCB.org, Marriage Unique for a Reason.

Let us preach Jesus Christ with all the energy of our lives. And let us support each other –whatever the cost – so that when we make our accounting to the Lord, we will be numbered among the faithful and courageous, and not the cowardly or the evasive, or those who compromised until there was nothing left of their convictions; or those who were silent when they should have spoken the right word at the right time.

–Archbishop Charles Chaput, Philadelphia

Which arguments will win the day?

Marie Mawn, New York State CDA Legislative Chair, worked hard to sustain marriage in New York State. Unfortunately, the results in New York are encouraging activists to attempt to redefine marriage in other states. Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley had announced that he will advocate for the change. Five other states and the District of Columbia currently allow same-sex marriage: Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

How do we face the issue? What arguments will win the day? Writing in the June 24, 2011, issue of *Crisis* magazine, David Carlin, Jr., summarizes several strong arguments. First, he says, “When law and public opinion give their endorsement to homosexual behavior, they implicitly condemn those who disapprove of such behavior, namely traditional Catholics, Protestants, and Jews.”

This rush toward same sex marriage, he claims, is “an attempt to destroy traditional Christianity.” He says this push for same sex marriage is just one more link in the chain of the sexual revolution: contraception, casual fornication, cohabitation, out-of-wedlock birth, and abortion. All have undermined marriage, and this change will worsen the trend.

Carlin says that same sex marriage reduces marriage to the absurd. “If persons of the same sex can get married, doesn’t marriage then mean anything — and nothing?”

“Marriage was instituted for the begetting of children, something that two persons of the same sex cannot do,” he continues. “A growing child has a profound psychological need for a mother and father.” Two mothers or two fathers won’t do.

He says, “The undermining of marriage has had disastrous consequences for millions of children who have grown up fatherless (and usually in poverty.” These consequences, while bad among all racial groups, have been worst among African Americans — in some cases frustrating the movement toward socioeconomic parity between black and white.”

Prayer for marriage

God our Father, we give you thanks for the gift of marriage: the bond of life and love, and the font of the family.

The love of husband and wife enriches your Church with children, fills the world with a multitude of spiritual fruitfulness and service, and is the sign of the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, for his Church.

The grace of Jesus flowed forth at Cana at the request of the Blessed Mother. May your Son, through the intercession of Mary, pour out upon us a new measure of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as we join with all people of good will to promote and protect the unique beauty of marriage.

May your Holy Spirit enlighten our society to treasure the heroic love of husband and wife, and guide our leaders to sustain and protect the singular place of mothers and fathers in the lives of their children.

Father, we ask that our prayers be joined to those of the Virgin Mary, that your Word may transform our service so as to safeguard the incomparable splendor of marriage.

We ask all these things through Christ our Lord, Amen. Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.
(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Stop free coverage of abortion and contraception

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has issued another call to support the Rights of Conscience Act, HR 1179. The bill is critical in light of the list of “preventive services” being considered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

According to a list released July 19, almost all private health plans may soon be required to cover procedures rejected by Catholic teaching, such as abortifacients, contraception, sterilization, *in vitro* fertilization, and embryonic stem cells.

Cardinal DiNardo (Galveston-Houston) specifically objected to the mandated coverage of surgical sterilization and of “all FDA-approved birth control (including the IUD, ‘morning-after’ pills, and the abortion-inducing drug Ella).” He also objected to “education and counseling” to promote these methods among all women of reproductive age. He said, “The considerable cost of these practices will be paid by all who participate in health coverage.” “[S]uch a mandate ... violates the deeply-held moral and religious convictions of many.”

Call your Congressmen to urge support of HR 1179.

Bishops issue statement against Assisted Suicide

In June, the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued “To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide.” They cautioned against an aggressive nationwide campaign being launched by assisted suicide proponents.

The bishops say that Catholic moral teaching rejects assisting in another’s suicide. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes “suicide as a grave offense against love of self, one that also breaks the bonds of love and solidarity with family, friends, and God (no. 2281).

Pope John Paul II wrote in *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 66 that assisting in a suicide is taking part in “an injustice which can never be excused, even if it is requested.”

The bishops say that regardless of religious affiliation, people know suicide is a terrible tragedy, one that a compassionate society should strive to prevent. Allowing doctors to prescribe for death is a corruption of the healing art.

The bishops note three ways that suicide decreases freedom. First, people who commit suicide often “suffer from mental illness, such as clinical depression” so they are not freely choosing it. Second, “even apparently free choices may be unduly influenced by the biases and wishes of others.”

Third, “A choice to take one’s life is a supreme contradiction of freedom, a choice to eliminate all choices. And a society that devalues some people’s lives, by hastening and facilitating their deaths, will ultimately lose respect for their other rights and freedoms.”

The bishops remind people that “Christian hope sees these final days as a time to prepare for our eternal destiny.” Several other resources are available on the USCCB website, USCCB.org.

Is increasing the federal debt immoral?

Speaking on increasing government debt, Pope Benedict XVI said, “[W]e are living at the expense of future generations ... in untruth. We live on the basis of appearances, and the huge debts are meanwhile treated as something that we are simply entitled to.”

(from Our Sunday Visitor, July 17, 2011)

“For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

—Divine Mercy Chaplet

Approved Joanne Tomassi, National Regent