May 3: St. Philip & St. James / First Friday

Intention:

For the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, that they would respect the authentic meaning of marriage by upholding California's Proposition 8.

Did you know?

California's Proposition 8 is the marriage referendum approved by California voters in 2008. It defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman in the California State constitution. Proposition 8 was challenged as being unconstitutional and is now under review by the U.S. Supreme Court, with a ruling expected in June. The USCCB urges the Supreme Court to uphold Proposition 8 (see January 2013 amicus brief). A negative ruling could mean that marriage would be redefined nationwide.

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Reflection:

The following are key quotes from the USCCB <u>amicus brief</u> in the case *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, about California's Proposition 8, which is currently being reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Given both the unique capacity for reproduction and unique value of homes with a mother and father, it is reasonable for a State to treat the union of one man and one woman as having a public value that is absent from other intimate interpersonal relationships" (p. 2).

"Redefining marriage...not only threatens principles of federalism and separation of powers, but would have a widespread adverse impact on other constitutional rights, such as the freedoms of religion, conscience, speech, and association" (p. 4).

"If the meaning of marriage is so malleable and indeterminate as to embrace all 'lifelong and committed' relationships, then marriage simply collapses as a coherent legal category" (p. 14-15).

"A law is not constitutionally impermissible because it overlaps with a religious teaching" (p. 20).

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