



Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth
Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage

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February 25, 2013

Your Eminence/Your Excellency:

As you may be aware, several organizations have come together to sponsor a **March for Marriage** which is scheduled to be held on **March 26, 2013** in Washington, D.C. This event is being planned strategically for the first day when the U. S. Supreme Court will be hearing oral arguments on the cases that could determine the future of marriage, as the union of one man and one woman, in our nation.

We are grateful for this opportunity to express support for the Marriage March and to encourage participation in this event. We realize that the march will occur during the solemn days of Holy Week, but we ask that you consider promoting this event in your diocese and parishes and encourage participation where possible.

The march will be a significant opportunity to promote and defend marriage and the good of our nation, to pray for our Supreme Court justices, and to stand in solidarity with people of good will. It also complements well the bishops' Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty that was approved last November (www.usccb.org/life-marriage-liberty). This is a decisive time for marriage in our country. We are deeply grateful for any support you can offer for this march.

The websites promoting this event are available at <http://www.marriagemarch.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/MarchForMarriage>. As we understand, more detailed information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks, and updates will be posted on the websites. The Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth will be promoting this event through the website and social media.

With profound appreciation for all you do in support of marriage and family life, and with our assurance of prayers in this holy season of Lent, we remain

Fraternally in Christ,

+ Kevin C. Rhoades

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Chairman, Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

+ Salvatore J. Cordileone

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco
Chairman, Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage