

## **THE IMPENDING SUPREME COURT DECISION ON MARRIAGE – A RESOURCE FOR PREACHING**

The Supreme Court has consolidated marriage cases before it and is expected to issue a ruling before the end of June on (1) whether states are required to issue marriage licenses to two persons of the same sex and (2) whether states must recognize same-sex “marriages” contracted out-of-state.

### **The Supreme Court can’t change what marriage really is.**

- Marriage by its nature remains the union of one man and one woman.
- Man and woman were designed by God *in relation to* one another, and only man and woman can form a conjugal union with one another that brings forth children.

### **Marriage has public significance.**

- Society needs an institution that connects children to their mothers and fathers. Marriage is the only institution that does this.
- Mothers and fathers are irreplaceable, not interchangeable.
- We uphold the dignity and basic rights of all people, particularly the basic right of children to be raised by their own mother and father whenever possible.
- Protecting the meaning of civil marriage concerns everyone because stable marriages and family life are the foundation of a just and flourishing society.

### **We must not be silent about injustice.**

- Children need a father and a mother, and the law should respect and protect that need. Any decision which fails to do that harms society. Marriage redefinition is an injustice that must always be opposed.
- Deliberately depriving a child of either a mother or a father is wrong. While single parents and others in difficult circumstances deserve our support and care, every child’s basic right to be raised, where possible, by his or her own married mother and father in a stable home needs to be protected.

### **Redefining marriage in the law endangers religious freedom.**

- Those who stand for marriage are already being called bigots. If marriage is redefined throughout the country, we may face false charges of discrimination or hatred.
- People have been punished for acting on their belief in marriage – they’ve been sued, lost their jobs, and forced to close down their businesses (florists, photographers, bakers, etc.).
- Our schools, hospitals and charitable institutions could be threatened and could lose access to public funds, non-profit status, or licenses to operate. This has already occurred, with Catholic agencies being forced to discontinue adoption and foster care, all because of their view on marriage.

### **Pray, sacrifice and be informed about marriage and religious freedom.**

- Let us be people of prayer, courage, and mercy. Let us pray for our Supreme Court and for our nation. Let us also study, educate ourselves, and be courageous witnesses for the truth. And finally, may all we do show forth the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.
- [Resources could be placed in the bulletin to help laity do these things. This issue particularly requires the witness of the laity.]