



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

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April 7, 2014

Your Eminence/Your Excellency:

As you may be aware, several organizations are collaborating to sponsor a second **March for Marriage**, which is scheduled to be held on **June 19, 2014** in Washington, D.C. Just two days before the beginning of the Fortnight for Freedom, this year's March for Marriage will provide an ideal occasion for participants to celebrate and give public witness to the unique meaning of marriage as the union of one man and one woman at a time when the religious liberties and conscience rights of those who promote and defend marriage are increasingly threatened.

We are very grateful for this opportunity to express our support for the March for Marriage and to encourage participation in this event. We kindly ask that you promote the march in your diocese and parishes and encourage participation where possible.

The March for Marriage will be an important means to promote and defend marriage for the good of our culture, to pray for our federal and state governments, 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 (www.usccb.org/life-marriage-liberty). This is a critical time for marriage in our country, as marriage amendments are being struck down by federal courts and appeals of these decisions are being made. We are deeply grateful for any support you can offer for this march.

The website promoting the March for Marriage is available at www.marriagemarch.org. As we understand, more detailed information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks, and updates will be posted on the website. The Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth will also be promoting this event through its websites 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,

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone

Bishop of Buffalo

Chairman, Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone

Archbishop of San Francisco

Chairman, Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage