

# CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Carolyn Jurkowitz, Executive Director: 614-224-7147

## **Supreme Court Decision Regarding Same-Sex Marriage**

Today the United States Supreme Court released its ruling that states are required to license a marriage between two people of the same sex. This is not the ruling hoped for by the Catholic Church, which believes that marriage is by definition between one man and one woman. For centuries, this definition has been universally accepted in virtually all cultures – secular as well as religious.

Every nation has laws limiting who can be married and under what circumstances. This is because lawmakers always have understood that marriage does not exist just for the mutual satisfaction of the two people involved, but for the betterment of society. Traditional marriage is the cradle of the family, the basic building block of society. As Pope Francis has reminded us, every child has a right to be raised by two parents, a father and a mother. Both parents are important, and they are not interchangeable. The sad reality that so many children are deprived of this right because of the crisis in traditional marriage does not make it any less important. It is deeply disappointing and worrisome that our courts do not understand this.

The Catholic Church remains steadfast in its commitment to promote and defend marriage: defined as the union of one man and one woman. With renewed hope, sensitivity, and compassion, the Church will continue to attend to the challenges and hardships that confront individuals and their families, and to treat all persons with the dignity and respect due to them as children of God.

For further information contact:

Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr, Archbishop of Cincinnati  
513-421-3131 ext. 6618 (Communications)

Most Rev. Joseph Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati  
513-421-3131 ext. 6618 (Communications)

Most Rev. Richard G. Lennon, Bishop of Cleveland  
216-696-6525 ext. 4460 (Communications)

Most Rev. Frederick Campbell, Bishop of Columbus  
614-241-2555 (Communications)

Most Rev. John Kudrick, Bishop of Byzantine Eparchy of Parma  
216-741-8773 ext. 231 (Communications)

Most Rev. Jeffrey Monforton, Bishop of Steubenville  
740-282-3631 (Communications)

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas, Bishop of Toledo  
419-244-6711 ext. 648 (Communications)

Most Rev. George V. Murry S.J., Bishop of Youngstown  
330-744-8451 ext. 292 (Communications)

Most Rev. J. Michael Botean, Bishop of Romanian Catholic Eparchy of Canton  
330-493-9355

Most Rev. Bohdan J. Danylo, Bishop of Ukrainian Eparchy of St. Josaphat  
440-888-1522

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