

Talking Points – Supreme Court Marriage Decision

[Background: Today, the Supreme Court in Obergefell v. Hodges ruled on two marriage questions: (1) Does the Fourteenth Amendment require a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex? and (2) Does the Fourteenth Amendment require a state to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state? To each question, the Court answered, “Yes.”]

This is a tragic ruling.

- The Supreme Court has issued a tragic ruling, redefining marriage throughout the country by forcing states to license and recognize marriages between two persons of the same sex.
- The Court is wrong—the Constitution does not require states to redefine marriage.

The Court’s decision will not stop public dialogue; the debate will and must continue.

- Like *Roe v. Wade*, this decision will not end public debate.
- Treating different things differently is not unjust. What’s been called “marriage equality” has ignored the very question at stake: *what is marriage?*

The ruling does not and cannot change what marriage really is.

- No one and no court can make what is false true.
- Marriage by its nature remains the union of one man and one woman—this is a matter of reason, not just faith.
- Man and woman were designed by God for each other, and only a man and a woman can form a union that brings forth children.

Redefining marriage in the law is gravely unjust and affects everyone, especially children.

- Marriage is the one institution that connects children to their mothers and fathers.
- The law teaches, and this ruling will make it more difficult for future generations to know the truth about marriage and for children to understand their origins.
- Mothers and fathers are irreplaceable; this ruling does not respect the rights of children to be raised, where possible, by their own married mother and father in a stable home.
- Changing the definition of civil marriage affects thousands of laws at once, endangering the religious freedom of institutions and individuals who hold the authentic meaning of marriage as a union of one man and one woman.
- We will continue to strive to ensure that all of our pastoral practices are consistent with the authentic teaching of the Church. This includes the practices of Catholic institutions.

We call the Church to pray for family life and all people to strengthen marriage.

- With renewed purpose we call upon all people of good will to promote and defend the unique meaning of marriage: one man, one woman, for life.
- We must increase our efforts to strengthen marriages and families and rebuild a marriage culture.
- We pray for all the future victims of this ruling, particularly children.
- We continue to reach out with love and support to all people, including those who experience same-sex attraction. All people are loved by God and are called to love Him.