

Press release from the Catholic Church of America

For immediate release: May 11, 2012.

Catholic Church of America In Support of President Obama and the Rights of Marriage Equality

We rejoice that our President has spoken out in favor of the equal rights and dignity of all people of good will, as demanded by the Christian Gospel, and especially as it applies to the rights of all people to marry as they choose.

Believing, as we do, that we are made in the divine image, we deplore the use of the Christian Gospel and other sacred texts by people, especially clergy, to promote an agenda that is against the celebration of God's inclusive love and acceptance of all.

In the Christian tradition of Marriage as a sacrament it is persons who marry each other, not the Church, and not the State. The Church is there to offer God's blessing and the faith community's support. Each faith tradition defines marriage according to its own beliefs. While every society including ours has its traditions on this subject, these have changed over time and will continue to do so. "We've always understood it that way" has no virtue in and of itself and is patently untrue.

Same sex couples have been welcome to celebrate their unions in our churches for decades. As Catholic a bishop representing congregations at the vanguard of human rights we want to proclaim love to be sacred, and that each person has the right to a marriage relationship of their choosing, which we unequivocally believe deserves recognition by their families, communities and the state.

In our world today there are many issues that need our concerted and united efforts – including hunger, poverty, education, access to health care, and the stewardship of the environment. While not impeding the fundamental right to a life and marriage of one's own choosing, let us devote our wisdom and spend our energies on such things as are important to the common good and all work together to assure a better future. I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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