

NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



Catholic Bishops React to CA Supreme Court Decision on Gay Marriage

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SACRAMENTO – Ned Dolejsi, executive director of the California Catholic Conference, released the following statement on behalf of California's Bishops and the California Catholic Conference, following the California Supreme Court's decision declaring the state's Defense of Marriage Act (Proposition 22) unconstitutional, thus allowing same-sex marriages to take place in California:

"The California Catholic Conference of Bishops must express its disappointment in the California Supreme Court decision to declare Proposition 22 unconstitutional.

"Proposition 22, which states, 'Only marriage between one man and one woman is valid and recognized in California,' passed eight years ago by a vote of 61.2 to 38.8 percent. That statute reflected the wisdom of the voters of California in retaining the traditional definition of marriage as a biological reality and a societal good. Unfortunately, today, the Court saw fit to disregard the will of the majority of people of California.

"Catholic teaching maintains that marriage is a faithful, exclusive and lifelong union between one man and one woman joined in an intimate partnership of life and love – a union instituted by God for the mutual fulfillment of the husband and wife as well as for the procreation and education of children.

"Partnerships of committed same-sex individuals are already legal in California. Our state has also granted domestic partners spousal-type rights and responsibilities which facilitate their relationships with each other and any children they bring to the partnership. Every person involved in the family of domestic partners is a child of God and deserves respect in the eyes of the law and their community. However, those partnerships are not marriage – and can never be marriage – as it has been understood since the founding of the United States. Today's decision of California's high court opens the door for policymakers to deconstruct traditional marriage and create another institution under the guise of equal protection.

"Although we strongly disagree with the ruling, we ask our Catholic people, as well as all the people of California, to continue to uphold the dignity of every person, to acknowledge individual rights and responsibilities, and to maintain support for the unique and irreplaceable role of traditional marriage as an institution which is fundamental to society."

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