



Diocese of
Green Bay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diocese of Green Bay responds to Supreme Court decisions on marriage

GREEN BAY, Wis. (June 26, 2015) – The Diocese of Green Bay and Bishop David L. Ricken stand in union with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' statement from its president Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville in regard to today's Supreme Court decisions on marriage.

As part of the statement, Archbishop Kurtz said, "The unique meaning of marriage as the union of one man and one woman is inscribed in our bodies as male and female. The protection of this meaning is a critical dimension of the "integral ecology" that Pope Francis has called us to promote. Mandating marriage redefinition across the country is a tragic error that harms the common good and most vulnerable among us, especially children. The law has a duty to support every child's basic right to be raised, where possible, by his or her married mother and father in a stable home. Jesus Christ, with great love, taught unambiguously that from the beginning marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman. As Catholic bishops, we follow our Lord and will continue to teach and to act according to this truth. I encourage Catholics to move forward with faith, hope, and love: **faith** in the unchanging truth about marriage, rooted in the immutable nature of the human person and confirmed by divine revelation; **hope** that these truths will once again prevail in our society, not only by their logic, but by their great beauty and manifest service to the common good; and **love** for all our neighbors, even those who hate us or would punish us for our faith and moral convictions."

Bishop David L. Ricken has issued the following statement:

"Today, the laws regarding marriage in our nation changed. The Supreme Court redefined our nation's laws, but it cannot redefine marriage as God created it. We view these decisions by our Supreme Court as an opportunity to reaffirm our Catholic faith, identity and deepest held beliefs. We renew our commitment to Jesus' words, 'Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate' (Mt. 19:6).

Marriage is a sacred union that bears witness to the truth of Catholic teaching, and all followers of Christ are called upon to proclaim this truth. The truth about marriage is and always will be between one man and one woman who are open to life. It is from the very intimate love of a husband and a wife that they welcome a child to be raised with love, and every child has the basic right to be raised by their mother and their father. There is no better and more fundamental ecology than the love of the family and the unique partnership of a husband and wife which is the foundation of our society.

The Church embraces truth, goodness, and beauty. While strongly defending the truths of our church with courage and love, we will continue to welcome and serve all people. We recognize the inherent dignity of each person as a child of God."

###

Who we are: The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay works to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by helping people in need and by providing academic, leadership and spiritual formation opportunities to parish and school leaders. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

Contact: Justine Lodl, director of communications, at 920-272-8213 or jlodl@gbdioc.org; or Sarah Bradford, communications coordinator, at 920-272-8209 or sbradford@gbdioc.org.