



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diocese of Green Bay responds to Supreme Court decisions on marriage

GREEN BAY, Wis. (June 26, 2013) – 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 Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York in regard to today's Supreme Court decisions on marriage.

As part of the statement, Cardinal Dolan said, "Today is a tragic day for marriage and our nation. The Supreme Court has dealt a profound injustice to the American people by striking down in part the federal Defense of Marriage Act. The Court got it wrong. The federal government ought to respect the truth that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, even where states fail to do so. The preservation of liberty and justice requires that all laws, federal and state, respect the truth, including the truth about marriage. It is also unfortunate that the Court did not take the opportunity to uphold California's Proposition 8 but instead decided not to rule on the matter. The common good of all, especially our children, depends upon a society that strives to uphold the truth of marriage. Now is the time to redouble our efforts in witness to this truth. These decisions are part of a public debate of great consequence. The future of marriage and the well-being of our society hang in the balance."

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. God made man and woman, uniquely in his image. By design, he made them to complement one another in a way that brings forth new life. Children, and society as a whole, thrive when both mother and father are present. Our Catholic community will continue to support and strengthen families.

"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).

"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."

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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.

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