



CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MINNESOTA: STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE

We, the Catholic Bishops of Minnesota, believe it is critical in our time to speak in support of marriage as a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman in an enduring bond of love. God's word in divine revelation declares that marriage is a union ordered to both the mutual good of the spouses and to the procreation and raising of children. As a sacred institution, marriage is a constant reminder of God's love for the human race, as well as a reflection of the permanent, faithful, and fruitful bond of love between Christ and the Church. (See Genesis 1:27, 2:22-24; Ephesians 5:31-32.)

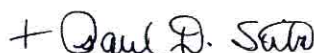
Our own State's constant recognition of marriage is based on the evident fact that only the sexual union of a man and a woman has the natural capability to bring forth new life with the bearing of children. Both faith and reason agree, then, that marriage is an institution central to the life of human society, and touches profoundly on the common good. This committed relationship between one man and one woman calls forth the best of the spouses, not only for their own sake, but also for the well-being of their children and the community. It is neither possible for us to change the definition of marriage nor wise to attempt to do so.

We urge our State government, our fellow Catholics, and all people of good will in the State of Minnesota to support marriage, both in theory and in practical measures that safeguard, promote, and enhance marriage and family. One practical measure would be a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

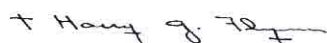
For further reading, see: *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, by the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, 17 November 2009. See also the web site at www.usccb.org/laity/loveandlife

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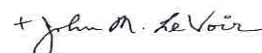
Archbishop John C. Nienstedt
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

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Bishop Paul D. Sirba
Diocese of Duluth

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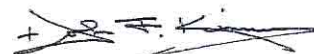
Archbishop Emeritus Harry J. Flynn
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

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Bishop John M. LeVoir
Diocese of New Ulm

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Auxiliary Bishop Lee A. Piché
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

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Bishop John F. Kinney
Diocese of St. Cloud

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Bishop Michael J. Hoepfner
Diocese of Crookston

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Bishop John M. Quinn
Diocese of Winona

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Bishop Emeritus Victor Balke
Diocese of Crookston

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Bishop Emeritus Bernard J. Harrington
Diocese of Winona