

California Bishops Speak on Same-Sex “Marriage”

“This meaning of marriage is rooted in history and culture, and it has preceded the existence of any nation or state. Marriage is not a design of two persons, with no relationship to family and society. **Society and civil authority are obliged to protect and support marriage and family life, not to revise, redesign or alter them.**”

Archbishop George H. Niederauer, San Francisco

“**Our understanding of marriage, while confirmed by faith, can be known also from reason. Therefore, efforts to enshrine this truth about marriage in the laws of our society are not an imposition of an ideology but a service of the truth which we make for the common good.**”

**Bishop William K. Weigand and
Bishop Jaime Soto, Sacramento**

“**Healthy and prosperous societies depend on healthy families, and healthy families depend on healthy marriages.** Why? Children grow up in families; they are the next generation of citizens. There can be no greater good for children than for them to grow up with their mother and father married to each other. While this is not always possible due to circumstances beyond one's control, to intentionally deprive children of a father and mother is to put the whims of adults before the good of children. **The protection and promotion of marriage as the life-long union of mutual and exclusive fidelity of a man and a woman, then, is not anti-anything; it benefits absolutely everyone.**”

Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, San Diego

“The conviction that same-sex couples cannot enter marriage is a conviction which all Catholics implicitly affirm when, in our baptismal promises, we profess that we share the Church's faith that the ‘Father Almighty [is] the Creator of heaven and earth.’ “

Bishop Allen H. Vigneron, Oakland

“[T]he Church cannot approve of redefining marriage, which has a unique place in God's creation, joining a man and a woman in a committed relationship in order to nurture and support the new life for which marriage is intended.”

The Los Angeles Bishops

“The state has a primary and fundamental obligation to protect and promote the family, which is rooted in marriage and sustained by it.”

Bishop Patrick J. McGrath, San Jose

“**Our ‘no’ to same sex unions is defined by our “yes” to human life as God created it. We cannot be indifferent about something that ultimately will be detrimental to human life and society.**”

**Bishop William K. Weigand and
Bishop Jaime Soto, Sacramento**

“When marriage is redefined so as to make other relationships equivalent to it, the institution of marriage is devalued and further weakened.”

Bishop Daniel F. Walsh, Santa Rosa

“In regard to the short term: **As faithful citizens Catholics are called to bring our laws regarding marriage into conformity with what we know about the nature of marriage.**”

“In the long term: If such efforts fail, our way of life will become counter-cultural, always a difficult situation for Christians -- one our forebears faced in many ages past, one that the Lord himself predicted for us. Indeed, even if such efforts meet with success, our work is far from done. We would still be living in a society where many accept a set of convictions that is ultimately detrimental to the integrity of human life, with negative consequences for one's happiness in this world and the next.

“**Your [the laity's] mission then will be, as it always has been, to be a light and leaven for the new creation established in Christ. The resources of the Theology of the Body, worked out by the late Holy Father, John Paul II, will be an especially helpful resource for this task.**”

Bishop Allen H. Vigneron, Oakland

“Eight years ago the Bishops of California endorsed Proposition 22 which the California Supreme Court declared as unconstitutional in their May 15, 2008 decision. The words of that proposition still merit our support that, ‘Only marriage between one man and one woman is valid and recognized in California.’

“Let us dedicate ourselves to upholding the inviolable dignity of every person. Let us at the same time declare by the witness of our lives our recognition of the vital role that marriage between a man and a woman plays in family and society.”

Bishop Richard J. Garcia, Monterey

“[S]ome voices define marriage only in terms of “personal choice,” as if marriage were merely a design of two persons – with nothing to do with family or society. Marriage is a relationship defined by nature, a reality which takes its origin in creation itself.”

Bishop Daniel F. Walsh, Santa Rosa

“The Defense of Marriage Act merely reflects a biological fact woven into the religious and social fabric of every major society and people from time immemorial. We are saddened and disappointed that a bare majority of our State supreme court has invalidated the Defense of Marriage Act. This decision injects further confusion and consternation in society concerning the authentic nature of marriage.”

Bishop John T. Steinbock, Fresno

“It is important to treat all of God's children with love and respect and we pray that California will restore marriage as a union between one man and one woman as ordained by Christ.”

Bishop Tod D. Brown, Orange

“As Pope John Paul II constantly reminded us: ‘Be not afraid.’ Christ is risen. His vision for our world, and for the place of marriage in it, will, according to the time he has appointed, become the truth of our world.”

Bishop Allen H. Vigneron, Oakland

