

September 2011 (or Month One) Bulletin Announcements

WEEK ONE



Why is the Catholic Church involved in public policy debates?

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: The church “is not the master, nor the servant, of the state, but rather the conscience of the state.” The church proposes; she never imposes. Catholics, individually and as a community, have a moral obligation to speak on behalf of human dignity and the common good. To live according to the Gospel, we must seek to promote laws that foster justice and human flourishing. We are our brother’s keeper.

The Minnesota Catholic Conference (MCC) coordinates the Catholic Church’s non-partisan lobbying and public policy activities on behalf of the bishops of Minnesota. We first analyze the moral dimension of public policies and then advocate for what will promote the sanctity of life and dignity of the human person and help lead decision makers to reach just solutions for the broader community.

To make your voice heard, join the MCC’s MN Catholic Advocacy Network (MNCAN) at:

<http://capwiz.com/mncc/mlm/signup/>



Why is MCC promoting the Marriage Amendment?

Because of the critical role marriage plays in fostering the well-being of children and creating just social structures that strengthen civil society overall.

Given the inherent connection between families, the well-being of children and the good of society, it is natural that the state supports and endorses traditional marriage (one man and one woman) in its laws and state constitutions.

Civil marriage exists in U.S. law because marriage between one man and one woman provides the most stable environment in which to raise children and keeps biological parents connected to their children. While death and divorce too often prevent it, we know children do best when raised in an intact home by their mother and father. In other words, traditional, natural marriage fosters strong community – or, the Common Good. Next week begins a weekly series, “Marriage Minute.”

<http://www.mncc.org/advocacy-areas/marriage-and-family/>





Marriage Minute: What's a good starting point?

To understand what marriage is, the best place to start is with the human person. After all, marriage is a unique relationship between two specific persons, one man and one woman. We must ask, "What does it mean to be a human person, as a man or as a woman?" First, men and women are created in the image of God (Gen 1:27). This means that they have great dignity and worth. Also, since God is love (1 Jn 4:8) each person – created in God's image – finds his or her fulfillment by loving others. Second, men and women are body-persons. The body – male or female – is an essential part of being human. Gender is not an afterthought or a mere social construct. The body shapes what it means to love as a human person. When we think about marriage, we must think about who the human person is – created with great dignity, and called to love as a body-person, male or female. (*USCCB.org, Marriage: Unique for a Reason*)



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Marriage Minute: Where does marriage come from?

“God himself is the author of marriage” (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 48). When God created human persons in his own image, as male and female, he placed in their hearts the desire, and the task, to love – to give themselves totally to another person. Marriage is one of two ways someone can make a total self-gift (the other is virginity, devoting oneself entirely to God) (*Familiaris Consortio*, no. 11). Marriage is not something thought up by human society or by any religion – rather, it springs from who the human person is, as male and female, and society and religion affirm and reinforce it. The truth of marriage is therefore accessible to everyone, regardless of their religious beliefs or lack thereof. Both faith and reason speak to the true meaning of marriage. (*USCCB.org, Marriage: Unique for a Reason*)

<http://www.mncc.org/advocacy-areas/marriage-and-family/>



Parish Bulletin and other resources: Marriage

Below are helpful resources from the USCCB website. Parishes and schools have permission to reproduce the downloadable PDF versions for free distribution. If you take advantage of this offer, please inform them at publications@usccb.org so they can track usage. See: http://www.usccbpublishing.org/client/client_pages/bulletininserts.cfm. **You may also order hard copies of these and other marriage-related titles in [bulk quantities](#).** (Resource members receive a 40% discount.) Visit <http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1472> or call 800-235-8722.

Bulletin Inserts

[Translate to Spanish](#)

Married Love and the Gift of Life

Bulletin Insert: [No. 7-006](#), \$12.00/package of 100
Resource Member Price \$7.20/package of 100
[Bulletin Insert in PDF format](#)

Between Man and Woman

Questions and Answers about Marriage and Same-sex Unions

Bulletin insert: [No. 5-626](#), 100/\$10.00
Resource Member Price 100/\$6.00
[Bulletin Insert in PDF format](#)

Promote, Preserve, Protect Marriage

[Bulletin Insert in PDF format](#)

Videos: Made for Life Series

<http://old.usccb.org/marriageuniqueforareason/>