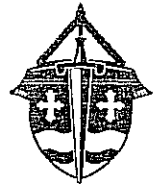


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MINNEAPOLIS

September 12, 2012

SAMPLE A. SAMPLE
3770 DUNLAP STREET NORTH
ARDEN HILLS, MN 55112

Dear (name),

Peace be with you. We write with the urgent request that you join us on November 6 in voting “Yes” to pass the Minnesota Marriage Protection Amendment.

The amendment asks voters to affirm the long-established definition of marriage and put it into our state’s constitution where it will be safe from politicians, activists, and state court judges who seek to change it. Statutes can be struck down or changed at any time, but if the amendment passes, activists who seek to redefine marriage for everyone will first have to get the permission of voters to do so.

Although marriage has long been understood in Minnesota as a bond that unites a man and a woman to any children born from their union, there is an active effort to redefine marriage in our state for all of us. In fact, a lawsuit is currently pending in Hennepin County, and legislators who have introduced legislation to redefine or eliminate marriage altogether have promised to do so again next year. And while voters have time and again upheld the traditional meaning of marriage, activists have already succeeded in redefining marriage in Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, and Canada, among other places.

If those same activists were to succeed in Minnesota, it would likely have enormous consequences for everyone because marriage between a man and a woman is the basic building block of society. It is the only institution that unites the legal, biological, and social aspects of parenthood—put simply, it unites children with their moms and dads. No other human relationship possesses these attributes, no matter how loving or committed, and society has a compelling interest in promoting and protecting this unique relationship that is unlike any other.

It is important to know that, contrary to claims in the media, the marriage amendment will not take away anyone’s existing rights or legal protections. The marriage amendment will not prevent people from visiting loved ones in the hospital. It will not take away the right to convey or will property. Nor will anyone be denied equal access to employment, housing, or the basic necessities of life.

— over please →

We are not alone in our efforts to support passage of the amendment. We have been encouraged by tens of thousands of Minnesotans of various backgrounds and faiths who have come together to form Minnesota for Marriage, the official campaign created to promote passage of the marriage amendment.

Now, Minnesota for Marriage needs your help to get the message out that the marriage amendment is an affirmation of the beautiful gift of marriage that God has given all of us; it is not against anyone. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a financial donation to Minnesota for Marriage of whatever amount is right for you and your family. No amount is too small. Please review the enclosed form for various giving options.

We must ensure that Minnesotans know what is at stake and have the correct information about why they should vote "Yes" for the marriage amendment. *(Remember that if you leave the ballot box blank, it counts as a "No" vote.)*

We know many have already supported efforts to pass the amendment. We now ask for your prayers for our state, that we may reclaim a culture of marriage and family life. Marriage needs to be strengthened, not redefined. Please join us in this historic opportunity to affirm God's plan for marriage in Minnesota.

May God abundantly bless you!

Cordially yours in Christ Jesus,

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The Most Rev. John C. Nienstedt
Archbishop

+ 

The Most Rev. Lee A. Piché
Auxiliary Bishop

Enclosure