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News from Our Anglican World

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"Everything this nation once stood for is being turned on its head. Free speech, religious expression, privacy, due process, bodily integrity, the sanctity of human life, the sovereignty of the family, individuality, the right to self-defense, protection against police

abuses, representative government, private property, human rights—the very ideals that once made this nation great--have become casualties of a politically correct, misguided, materialistic, amoral, militaristic culture." --- John W. Whitehead, President, Rutherford Institute

"Heaven is God's sphere of created reality, which as the Lord's Prayer suggests will one day colonize our earth. What matters is that the kingdom of God is bringing the values and priorities of God himself to bear on the greed and anxiety of the world." ~ Bishop N. T. Wright, Theologian and Professor, St. Andrews University.

"If renewed Anglicanism has a future, it is because it is rooted in the past, in the catholic heritage of the undivided Church. This summer's International Catholic Congress of Anglicans, in Ft. Worth, will help us all to see

more deeply both what this means, and how we are empowered and challenged to live this out." ---

Fr. Lawrence Bausch

"We say we want to be like Jesus. If so, prepare for the rocks ... AND the victory." ~ George B. Flint

The Supreme Court Takes Up the Question of Gay Marriage

As many of you know the U. S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments beginning today, Tuesday, April 28 on the future of the institution of marriage. Both the Anglican Church in North America and the Reformed Episcopal Church continue to believe that marriage is between one man and one woman, as clearly spelled out in Holy Scripture. In fact, it has been at the heart of every enduring world culture because life long ago taught that such cultures thrive when children are raised in stable, two-parent, mother-father homes.

Below is an open letter signed last week by representatives of most of the country's major religious organizations, including ACNA Archbishop Dr. Foley Beach and Archbishop Emeritus Bob Duncan. Bishop Sutton was consulted on and participated in the development of this open letter our archbishop signed.

It is recommended that you read this article and pray for the court to retain this understanding when its decision comes down in the months to come. Included is a list those who officially signed the document. As the courts deliberations continue, you are also encouraged to use the prayer for *Courts of Justice* beginning on page 35 of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Blessings,

Rudy Schenken

Parish Administrator

Pro Cathedral Church of the Holy Communion

Dallas, Texas

An Open Letter from Religious Leaders to All in Positions of Public Service

Dear Friends:
April 2015

23

At this significant time in our nation's history with the institution of marriage before the United States Supreme Court, we reaffirm our commitment to promote and defend marriage – the union of one man and one woman. As religious leaders from various faith communities, we acknowledge that marriage is the foundation of the family where children are raised by a mother and a father together. Our commitment to marriage has been expressed on previous occasions, including the Letter of Shared Commitment and Letter on Marriage and Religious Liberty. This commitment is inseparable from affirming the equal dignity of all people and the necessity of protecting their basic rights.

The state has a compelling interest in maintaining marriage as it has been understood across faiths and cultures for millennia because it has a compelling interest in the well-being of children. Every child has a mother and a father, and every child deserves the opportunity, whenever possible, to be raised by his or her own married mother and father in a stable, loving home. Marriage as the union of a man and a woman is the only institution that encourages and safeguards the connection between children and their mother and father. Although this connection cannot always be realized and sustained – and many single parents, for example, are heroic in their efforts to raise their children – it is in the best interests of the state to encourage and uphold the family founded on marriage and to afford the union of husband and wife unique legal protection and reinforcement.

The redefinition of legal marriage to include any other type of relationship has serious consequences, especially for religious freedom. It changes every law involving marital status, requiring that other such relationships be treated as if they were the same as the marital relationship of a man and a woman. No person or community, including religious organizations and individuals of faith, should be forced to accept this redefinition. For many people, accepting a redefinition of marriage would be to act against their conscience and to deny their religious beliefs and moral convictions. Government should protect the rights of those with differing views of marriage to express their beliefs and convictions without fear of intimidation, marginalization or unwarranted charges that their values imply hostility, animosity, or hatred of others.

In this and in all that we do, we are motivated by our duty to love God and neighbor. This love extends to all those who disagree with us on this issue. The well-being of men, women, and the children they conceive compels us to stand for marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We call for the preservation of the unique meaning of marriage in the law, and for renewed respect for religious freedom and for the conscience rights of all in accord with the common good.

Sincerely Yours:

The Rev. Dr. Leith Anderson
President
National Association of Evangelicals

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach
Archbishop and Primate
Anglican Church in North America

Dr. A.D. Beacham, Jr.
Presiding Bishop
International Pentecostal Holiness Church

The Rev. John F. Bradosky

Bishop
North American Lutheran Church

Rev. Mark Chavez
General Secretary
North American Lutheran Church

Clint Cook
Executive Director
General Association of General Baptists

Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco
Chairman USCCB Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios
Archbishop of America
President of the Holy Eparchial Synod
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

The Most Rev. Robert Duncan
Archbishop Emeritus
Anglican Church in North America
Bishop, Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh

Rev. Dr. Ron Hamilton
Conference Minister
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison
President
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Rev. Bruce D. Hill
Bishop
Evangelical Congregational Church

John Hopley
Director
Great Commission Churches

Steven R. Jones
President
Missionary Church, Inc.

Imam Faizul Khan
Islamic Society of Washington Area

Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz
Archbishop of Louisville
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Most Rev. William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore
Chairman
USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty

Dr. Jo Anne Lyon
General Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church

Most Rev. Richard J. Malone
Bishop of Buffalo Chairman
USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

Dr. Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Dr. Gus Reyes
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Christian Life Commission, Texas Baptists

Rev. Eugene F. Rivers, III
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Jacqueline C. Rivers
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Larry Roberts
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The Free Methodist Church - USA

Rocky Rocholl
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Fellowship of Evangelical Churches

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez
President
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference/

Hispanic Evangelical Association

Bishop Gary E. Stevenson
Presiding Bishop
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Dr. L. Roy Taylor
Stated Clerk
Presbyterian Church in America

His Beatitude, The Most Blessed Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada
Orthodox Church in America

Dr. Joseph Tkach
President
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Rev. Dr. David Wendel
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Rev. Phillip Whipple
Bishop
United Brethren in Christ Church, USA

David P. Wilson
General Secretary
Church of the Nazarene

Rev. Paul Winter
Elder Bruderhof Communities

Dr. George O. Wood
General Superintendent
Assemblies of God