

NEWS RELEASE
The Diocese of Peoria, Illinois
June 26, 2015

*“Statement from the Catholic Diocese of Peoria on
Recent U.S. Supreme Court Decision Regarding Same Sex Marriage”*

PEORIA - Regarding the Supreme Court decision today requiring all 50 states to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples, Bishop Daniel Jenky, C.S.C. stands united with the Bishops across the United States and makes the statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ his own:

**Supreme Court Decision on Marriage “A Tragic Error” Says President of
Catholic Bishops’ Conference**

June 26, 2015

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court decision, June 26, interpreting the U.S. Constitution to require all states to license and recognize same-sex “marriage” “is a tragic error that harms the common good and most vulnerable among us,” said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The full statement follows:

Regardless of what a narrow majority of the Supreme Court may declare at this moment in history, the nature of the human person and marriage remains unchanged and unchangeable. Just as *Roe v. Wade* did not settle the question of abortion over forty years ago, *Obergefell v. Hodges* does not settle the question of marriage today. Neither decision is rooted in the truth, and as a result, both will eventually fail. Today the Court is wrong again. It is profoundly immoral and unjust for the government to declare that two people of the same sex can constitute a marriage.

The unique meaning of marriage as the union of one man and one woman is inscribed in our bodies as male and female. The protection of this meaning is a critical dimension of the “integral ecology” that Pope Francis has called us to promote. Mandating marriage redefinition across the country is a tragic error that harms the common good and most vulnerable among us, especially children. The law has a duty to support every child’s basic right to be raised, where possible, by his or her married mother and father in a stable home.

Jesus Christ, with great love, taught unambiguously that from the beginning marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman. As Catholic bishops, we follow our Lord and will continue to teach and to act according to this truth.

I encourage Catholics to move forward with faith, hope, and love: *faith* in the unchanging truth about marriage, rooted in the immutable nature of the human

person and confirmed by divine revelation; *hope* that these truths will once again prevail in our society, not only by their logic, but by their great beauty and manifest service to the common good; and *love* for all our neighbors, even those who hate us or would punish us for our faith and moral convictions.

Lastly, I call upon all people of good will to join us in proclaiming the goodness, truth, and beauty of marriage as rightly understood for millennia, and I ask all in positions of power and authority to respect the God-given freedom to seek, live by, and bear witness to the truth.

No further comment will be offered by the Catholic Diocese of Peoria.

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