

St. Mary Catholic Church Respect Life

League City, Texas

June 2014



*Fortnight for Freedom
Freedom to Serve
June 21 – July 4, 2014
Freedom to serve the poor and vulnerable
in accord with human dignity and
Church teaching*

USCCB Spring General Assembly Promotion and Defense of Marriage

In New Orleans June 10-13, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of *Marriage*, updated the bishops on the catechetical work of the subcommittee, including videos and the website *Marriage: Unique for a Reason*. www.marriageuniqueforareason.org

He called attention to the serious legal challenges that have arisen since the June 2013 ruling of the Supreme Court that a federal definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman (in the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA) is unconstitutional, leaving the definition of marriage up to the states. Archbishop Cordileone said, “we have endorsed the House resolution calling for the Marriage Protection Amendment to the US Constitution H.J.Res.51,” that the archbishop explained, “is the only remedy in law against judicial activism that may ultimately end with federal judges declaring that the Constitution required states to redefine marriage. We are at a critical point in this country when it comes to the promotion and defense of marriage in the law.”

Religious Liberty – Archbishop Cordileone’s March For Marriage Participation

San Francisco’s Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone responded to a letter dated June 10 from nearly 80 leaders, including California’s Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee to reconsider his participation in the National Organization for Marriage’s (NOM) annual March For Marriage rally and march at the nation’s capital on June 19. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi also sent a similar letter.

The June 10th letter reads, “while not all of us agree with official Catholic teaching on marriage and family, we appreciate the many statements from Catholic leaders defending the human dignity of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, especially the recent words of Pope Francis: ‘If someone is gay, who searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?’ ... We respect freedom of religion and understand that you oppose civil marriage for same-sex couples. But the actions and rhetoric of NOM, and those of the event’s speakers and co-sponsors, fundamentally contradict Christian belief in the fundamental human dignity of all people... We ask that you will reconsider your participation and join us in seeking to promote reconciliation rather than division and hatred.”

The archbishop responded with a letter of his own in which he stated that his duty is “to proclaim the truth—the whole truth—about the human person and God’s will for our flourishing.

I must do that in season and out of season, even when truths that it is my duty to uphold and teach are unpopular, including especially the truth about marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife. That is what I will be doing on June 19th...

The March for Marriage is not anti-anyone or anti-anything. Rather, it is a pro-marriage March. ... Rather, it affirms the great good of bringing the two halves of humanity together so that a man and a woman may bond with each other and with any children who come from their union...

It gives me assurance that we share a common disdain for harsh and hateful rhetoric. It must be pointed out, though, that there is plenty of offensive rhetoric which flows in the opposite direction. In fact, for those who support the conjugal understanding of marriage, the attacks have not stopped at rhetoric. Simply for taking a stand for marriage as it has been understood in every human society for millennia, people have lost their jobs, lost their livelihoods, and have suffered other types of retribution, including physical violence. It is true that historically in our society violence has been perpetrated against persons who experience attraction to members of the same sex, and this is to be deplored and eradicated. Sadly, though, we are now beginning to see examples, although thankfully not widespread, of even physical violence against those who hold to the conjugal view of marriage...

U.S. District Court Judge Callie V.S. Granade of Mobile, Alabama issued an opinion denying EWTN Global Catholic Network protection from the government mandate that it must provide coverage of contraception, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilization as part of its employee health care coverage.

www.lifenews.com/2014/06/18/court-lets-obama-admin-force-ewtn-to-obey-hhs-mandate

Archbishop Cordileone's letter concludes:

Please do not make judgments based on stereotypes, media images and comments taken out of context.

Rather, get to know us first as fellow human beings. I

myself am willing to meet personally with any of you not only to dialogue, but simply so that we can get to know each other. It is the personal encounter that changes the vision of the other and softens the heart.

In the end, love is the answer, and this can happen even between people with such deep disagreements. That may sound fanciful and far-fetched, but it is true, it is possible. I know it is possible, I know this from personal experience. When we come together seeking to understand the other with good will, miracles can happen. When all is said and done, then, there is only one thing that I would ask of you more than anything else: before you judge us, get to know us. www.sfarchdiocese.org/media/media-releases/2014/AB%20letter%20final.pdf



Fourteen Night Rosary at Mary Queen Friendswood Rosary Garden from 6-7pm

Novena for Fortnight For Freedom at Shrine of the True Cross Dickinson.

June 26 thru July 4th at 7pm EXCEPT for June 27, June 28, and July 4, when the prayers will be said after Masses on those days (7 pm Mass on the Friday).

Helpers of God's Precious Infants **July 19** – 8:15 am Mass at St. Michael's followed by Rosary at Aaron's 5607 Schumacher. Free luncheon to follow Rosary with guest speaker at the parish hall. **August 16** – 8 am Mass at Annunciation followed by Rosary at Houston Women's 4820 San Jacinto

For the Archdiocese Galveston-Houston Respect Life Newsletter go to the "newsletter" under "resources" in www.archgh.org/RespectLife/

Join in prolife prayer: **First Saturday Respect Life Mass** 10 a.m. at Shrine of the True Cross, Dickinson
Pray for Our Nation Thursdays 12:30 at Mary Queen, Friendswood