

Proposition 8 Support

126 years ago, when the Knights of Columbus started, it was common to see signs that said “Catholics need not apply”. In 2007, California passed a law requiring the teaching of “homosexual ideology”. In May 2008 it took four judges 121 pages to explain why they overruled the votes of four million California voters and found a constitutional "right" to same-sex "marriage."

The Catholic Bishops of California are in support of Proposition 8:

A Constitutional Amendment to Restore the Definition of Marriage

With all this in mind, we, as bishops, offer counsel to our Catholic people in California in their response to this radical change in California’s public policy regarding marriage.

First, same-sex unions are *not* the same as opposite-sex unions. The marriage of a man and a woman embraces not only their sexual complementarity as designed by nature but includes their ability to procreate. The ideal for the well being of children is to be born into a traditional marriage and to be raised by both a mother and a father. We recognize that there are parents who are single and we laud them for the great sacrifices they make in raising their children.

Second, we need to recall that marriage mirrors God’s relationship with us—and that marriage completes, enriches and perpetuates humanity. When men and women consummate their marriage they offer themselves to God as co-creators of a new human being. Any other pairing—while possibly offering security and companionship to the individuals involved—is not marriage. We must support traditional marriage as the source of our civilization, the foundation for a society that can be home to all human beings, and the reflection of our relationship with God.

Third, we need to remember that we are all children of God possessed of human dignity and that each of us is created in God’s image. Protecting the traditional understanding of marriage should not in any way disparage our brothers and sisters—even if they disagree with us.

Fourth, we must pray and work for a just resolution of this issue which is so important to the well being of the human family.

Fifth, as citizens of California, we need to avail ourselves of the opportunity to overturn this ruling by the California Supreme Court. On the November general election ballot, there will be *Proposition 8* which reads: “Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.” That language simply affirms the historic, logical and reasonable definition of marriage—and does not remove any benefits from other contractual arrangements.

And finally, we strongly encourage Catholics to provide both the financial support and the volunteer efforts needed for the passage of Proposition 8. And—please exercise your citizenship and vote in November.

(A STATEMENT OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CALIFORNIA
IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 8:

A Constitutional Amendment to Restore the Definition of Marriage, Aug 1, 2008)

Are we in “Solidarity with our Bishops” or just is just a catchy phrase. Go to <http://www.protectmarriage.com> and sign up.

Ray Warriner, State Warden