



OFFICE OF THE PRIMATE AND ARCHBISHOP OF THE UNITED STATES
OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES
(OLD CATHOLIC CONFEDERATION)

PRESS RELEASE

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On behalf of The Old Catholic Church in the United States under the Synod of Bishops of the Old Catholic Confederation, I applaud the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States today in affirming the natural right of all citizens to the ancient and venerable institution of marriage and further in its recognition of the constitutionality of civil marriages between couples of the same sex.

From antiquity, marriage has been defined as a contract, which the State has always recognized as having lawful effect, including such things as the right of inheritance among many other important rights. Indeed, this decision by the Supreme Court rightly situates civil marriage within the consideration of natural and civil rights, which is the onerous duty of the State to observe.

While there is a constitutional separation of Church and State in the United States, Christian theology has always claimed that religious and secular power both derive from God. Thus, it behooves the Church to work with the State in our common desire for the good of the Nation and the well-being of our fellow citizens. Now, concerning today's historic decision, the Church must not focus her attention on what may be described as a pharisaical observance of the Pauline (and Levitical) prohibition against homosexual love; but rather, the Church must always emerge as a clear voice for the rights and dignity of all human persons dispersing ideology and hypocrisy in her moral witness and presence in the world.

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