



Deacon Deliberations by Deacon Gary Kupsak

“Take a Stand for Marriage”

Since June is historically the “Month of Marriages,” I thought this month’s reflection would focus on the sanctity of marriage. But this reflection, may be a bit different than have been other ruminations regarding the sanctity of marriage. I believe the sacred institution of marriage is being seriously threatened and I’m so angry I could spit. Here’s why: “Marriage is the very foundation of society. It is the institution that provides for procreation, a mother and a father and a stable family structure, which are so important to the development of children. The family, with a father and a mother is where the next generation is nurtured and formed. Without these conditions it simply cannot be marriage. A legal relationship that is not life giving and excludes the possibility of a mother or a father can never be a marriage. Only such a union can be recognized and ratified as a “marriage” in society. Other interpersonal unions which do not fulfill the above conditions cannot be recognized despite the current growing trends which represent a serious threat to the future of family, and I believe to society itself.”(Blessed John Paul II-“*Letters to Families*”)

History has shown that there cannot be a strong nation without marriage and strong families. This is a significant reason that societies have laws to encourage and protect marriage. Through reason alone there is nothing that can be made equivalent to marriage. If the law were to sanction relationships that are not marriage and falsely call them marriage, it would be necessary to redefine and diminish what marriage really is. Marriage would simply become one of the several lifestyle choices for adults. To advocate for same-sex marriage is to pursue the special interest of a small group of adults at the expense of children, families and our future.

To understand the seriousness of the threat, one must approach the issue through the eyes of children who are forming attitudes and opinions for their future regarding commitment, marriage and family. In countries that have adopted “same-sex marriage,” there seems to be a disconnection with the true meaning marriage has in relationship to children, parenting and families and the institution has become purely adult centered. This has contributed to the rapid deterioration in the understanding and appreciation of what marriage offers to young people. The public schools are already teaching, in deference to homosexual groups, that alternative families with two fathers or two mothers are equivalent to a family with mother and a father committed to the sanctity of marriage. How confused will our children become?

The union of husband and wife becomes, over a lifetime, a great good for themselves and their family, community and society. Marriage is a gift from God to be cherished and protected. It may be difficult for people to see the direct effects that legalizing “same-sex marriage” will have on them and their children. Many are complacent and think, “let people do what they want.” The Church teaches that marriage is between a man and woman, but God also gave people “free will” to make good and bad choices for themselves. No matter what the choices, no group or individuals has the right to reorder the natural foundation of society to conform to their own special interests. Take a stand for marriage between a man and a woman. **“God created marriage. No government subcommittee envisioned it. No social organization developed it. Marriage was conceived and born in the mind of God.”** – Max Lucado (Christian writer and preacher)