



STATEMENT OF THE OLD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ON THE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

As Old Roman Catholics, we are committed to Catholic and Scriptural faith and ethics, not as two distinct, separate or conflicting sources of teaching and authority, but as one united Sacred Fountain of doctrinal belief necessary for all Christians, everywhere and for all time. Consequently, this Church, this body of Christian Believers, this Mystical Body of Christ, stands upon the authority of Scripture and God's Truth in uncompromising fidelity to the Magisterial doctrines of the Catholic Church, the teachings of the Early Fathers of the Church, the examples of the Saints and Martyrs of the Christian religion, and in full accord with the historic and revered Sacred Tradition of our Holy Faith throughout the ages, as central to our lives.

What the Bible says about marriage is clear, definitive and unchanging. We affirm biblical, traditional, natural marriage as the uniting of one man and one woman in a Sacred Covenant commitment with God and with each other for life, any other marital union than this is contrary to Scripture and to our Catholic Faith. The Scriptures' teaching and the teaching of the Catholic Faith throughout the centuries on marriage is not negotiable. We stake our lives upon the Word of God, upon the testimony of the Son of God our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and upon the unchangeable Catholic Doctrine and Tradition of the Church.

Consequently, we will not receive, accept, support, comply with, condone, nor adhere to, any real or attempted legal redefinition of marriage issued by any political, civil, governmental or judicial body including the United States Supreme Court. We will not recognize any "marriages" that are not in full conformity with the Sacred Scripture and the teachings of our Catholic Faith, nor will any of our churches host such ceremonies, nor shall we perform or permit such ceremonies by any of our clergy or lay-members, or within our churches or congregations. Examples of such non-conforming marital unions consist of but are not limited to: incestuous marriages (*between family members within prohibited degrees of relation*), plural marriages (*polygamy/multiple spouses*), child marriages (*between children below the age of discretion*), early marriages (*between a child and an adult*), same-gender marriages (*between two men or two women*), simulated marriages (*where no consent or ability to consent is present*), common-law marriages (*where no legal marriage ceremony was performed*), posthumous marriages (*with a deceased person*), inter-species marriages (*with or between animals, etc.*).

While we affirm our love and support for all people, including those struggling with same-sex attraction, we cannot and will not affirm the moral acceptability of any sexual behavior by whomever, whether inside of or outside of marriage, whether homosexual or heterosexual, that deviates from God's design for marriage. We also believe that our religious freedom is at stake within this critical issue – and that our first duty is to love and obey God, not man - when man is in conflict with God and His laws.

Therefore, we strongly encourage and enjoin upon all Old Roman Catholic Bishops, Priests, Deacons, pastors, leaders, educators, and churches to openly reject any mandated legal redefinition of marriage

contrary to God's Word and our Catholic Faith and to use their influence to affirm God's design for life and relationships. As one of our nation's Catholic jurisdictions with a history of steadfast fidelity to the historic and authoritative teachings of the Catholic Faith, we stake our very lives and future on the Truth of God's Holy Word and upon the immutable Catholic Faith and Sacred Tradition of the ages.

We also join together to support those who stand for biblical, traditional, natural marriage in the corporate world, the marketplace, education, entertainment, media and elsewhere with our prayers and influence, and resources.

Given this Nineteenth day of June in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Fifteen, being the Feast of Saint Juliana Falconieri; at our Chancery in Springvale, Maine in the Thirty-eighth year of our Episcopacy and the Twentieth year of our Primacy.

+ Eduardus Novat

+Eduardus Jacobus, *Nova Terrensis*

Primate of the North American Old Roman Catholic Church