



Fortunate Families Newsletter

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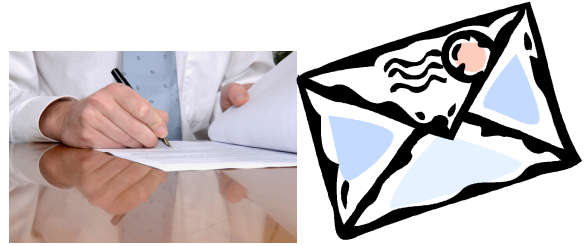
November 2009

Catholic Families Advocating Respect and Justice for their Gay & Lesbian Children

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Words to ponder

“One of the most troubling developments in contemporary culture is the proposition that persons of the same-sex can ‘marry.’ This proposal redefines the nature of marriage and the family and, as a result, harms both the intrinsic dignity of every human person and the good of society.”

-- US Bishops draft pastoral on marriage, lines 424-427.

“I am the father of a gay son.... The Church’s teaching on homosexuality very nearly cost me the life of that only son.”

-- Tom Nelson, Detroit MI, in his letter to the bishops.

“I wonder: will we live to see the events of our days become ‘history’? I have a great desire to see all this sometime in the light of eternity. For one realizes ever more clearly how blind we are toward everything. One marvels at how mistakenly one viewed a lot of things before, and yet the very next moment one commits the blunder again of forming an opinion without having the necessary basis for it.”

-- Edith Stein: Self-Portrait in Letters, p. 315.

“Just as views of marriage have changed so that women are no longer considered to be property, and so that multiple wives are no longer thought to be a sign of God’s favor, so, too, history may ultimately reveal that same-sex marriages are simply another reflection of God’s love, a God who loves diversity.”

-- Sheila Nelson, St. Cloud MN, in her letter to her bishop.

Readers write to Bishops about USCCB draft of marriage pastoral

In mid-October, Fortunate Families learned of the Bishops’ draft pastoral letter ("Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan," to be formally considered at their Nov. 16-19 national meeting) from a *National Catholic Reporter* article. We provided you with the NCR info (with a link to the draft) and encouraged you to share your opinion of the draft with the bishops prior to their meeting, especially the section on same-sex marriage.

We suggested sharing your knowledge and experience of persons in same-sex relationships might greatly benefit the bishops if, like their 2006 pastoral guidelines document, this draft was written without consultation with openly gay or lesbian persons or their parents.

The draft states: "The bishops decry the rise of same-sex marriage as 'one of the most troubling developments in contemporary culture.' Same-sex marriage 'redefines the nature of marriage and the family and, as a result harms both the intrinsic dignity of every human person and the common good of society.'" We noted that the draft's entire same-sex marriage section cites only previous church documents to support this claim and suggested that you address this claim in your letter.

We also suggested that bishops are more likely to read and consider letters that are respectful in tone and reasoned in substance. They can disagree with your position but they cannot deny your story.

This issue is devoted to reader’s responses. Below are excerpts from letters you shared with us. Thank you!

You might want to share this issue with your bishop!

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Dear Bishop ... (excerpts)

1-Letter from father of gay son

... I have ... enjoyed more than 53 years of happy marriage.... It has been ... an educational journey

... there is much in the proposed letter with which I can heartily agree. Most of all perhaps ... the disturbing trends in current culture such as the high divorce rate. My ... assessment, however, differs greatly.... your analysis seems little more than a restatement of old platitudes and defunct doctrine.

My traditional Catholic background ... has served me well However, I have found new insight regarding marriage and human sexuality. This has resulted in some serious differences between my understanding, and our Church's teaching....

A primary concern ... is the absurd focus on genital behavior. The proclivities of sexual libido ... are vastly overemphasized by our culture, and by our Church.... the most important characteristic of marriage by far, is unconditional selfless love.... the essential and primary feature of a Christ-driven marriage. Everything else including procreation is ancillary. ... The Church's broad obsession with biology and its selective interpretation of nature, is misguided at best, and at worst, very harmful....

I am the father of a gay son.... Church teaching on homosexuality very nearly cost me the life of that only son. As a young teenager, he had heard his unwitting father denounce him as I pronounced Church teaching on homosexuality at dinner ... conversations. He

heard himself described as objectively disordered and inclined to an intrinsic evil. After a protracted period of silent anguish, at age 18 while away at college, he attempted suicide. It was only through ... intervention by a loving God that he survived. He told me later that God said to him: "I made you just the way you are and you are good."

The revelation ... that my son was gay started me on a journey that continues I studied ... homosexuality in depth. I ... talked to many other parents of gay children, and to many gay people.... I learned ... and my Church-formed stereotype was transformed. I gained a new understanding of human relationships....

Having a gay son has helped my marriage - immensely. His 18 year relationship with another gay



man is a model of loving unity that many a heterosexual marriage could well emulate. My son is not *objectively disordered*. His relationship is not *intrinsically evil*. ...it is Church teaching and understanding of human sexuality that is *disordered*....

When I consider my own experiences of parental and spousal love, I realize that God's love is more than unconditional. It is unfathomable.... Yet, the Church ... implies that while God created LGBT persons, they may not love another person to the fullest. ... this is a completely perverse distortion of what Jesus proclaimed. It is certainly not what I have witnessed....

It is Church teaching that is producing *intrinsic evil*. I have

heard and witnessed too many stories of verbal abuse, bullying, violence, suicide, and even murder ... which stems from a culture that denigrates folks who are different from the heterosexual norm, and is fed by the self-righteous railing by too many of our religious leaders. The ... words of the Magisterium cannot be offset by protestations of "treating the homosexual person with respect." Words matter. Our culture draws its own conclusions - sometimes ones that are unintended.

... Why is the Church's solution to marital issues simply to lay on once again heavy and fruitless burdens? Why not begin with an analysis of ... contemporary marriage to determine more accurately what causal factors are involved? Contraception is certainly not the issue! Gay marriage is not the issue. I suspect your state of celibacy constricts your understanding. Please! Listen. The Spirit speaks to us most often through others....

... the proposed USCCB letter is not pastoral. It ... will not help marriage. It is another unwitting assault on simple justice and the love that Jesus gave us. Our mutual challenge is to "*Love one another,*" but it seems that for some of our bishops, that challenge will require an immense courage.... to examine the possibility that Church teaching needs revision.... My own



Cardinal once told me: "Tom, if I could change Church teaching, I would do it in an instant. My response was and is: "If it doesn't start with you, then who?"

Tom Nelson, Detroit MI

2-Letter from lesbian woman

... I attended a Memorial Service for a dear friend and colleague who died of pancreatic cancer. This memorial was beautiful, a true tribute to John and all the good he had accomplished during his short sixty years.... John had studied for the ministry in the Methodist Church, but had been denied a call to ordination because of his sexual orientation. He then became a social worker with a special commitment to those most marginalized He did a world of good for young GLBT persons coming to terms with their sexual identity John also worked with and for those dying of HIV-AIDS, and he did much to educate the public As a college professor,



John was a great teacher and an advocate for justice, a man of deep insight and faith, a man who fully embraced and lived the Benedictine values in an exemplary way. ... he spoke his truth with conviction and without resentment or anger. He lived a life of great integrity, deep joy, and a firm commitment to the Gospel. While he never was ordained, John was ALWAYS a minister... and reading his ... website during his bout with cancer, gave all of us so much inspiration and hope! His last posting was a tribute to the love of family ... expressing gratitude for all that God had given him... a song of joy and contentment and love....

... John and his partner Gary modeled so beautifully what family can be, what committed love is meant to be; no, John never had biological children, but the life he shared with Gary WAS fruitful in so many ways. The two of them touched so many ... and enriched and blessed us.... Their

commitment may have not been a “marriage” in the official sense, but without a doubt it was sacramental. It was a powerful sign of God’s love for the two of them and for all of us whose lives they touched. It was so inspiring to see how Gary took care of John in his dealing with cancer....

As we celebrated and remembered, and as I listened to all the people talking about what John had meant to them ... I was haunted by the words of the new Bishop’s pastoral letter.... I agree that heterosexual marriage is dealing with some real challenges in our society—that people often marry without really understanding what they are taking on, that the focus is often too much on romantic love rather than on committed love, that mutuality in relationships is a challenge in a society that stresses individualism, and that couples are often far too quick to divorce. But I am a sociologist who teaches a course on marriage, and I know that people have been decrying the collapse of marriage for millennia. And I don’t see how any of the real problems facing married couples today can be blamed on same-sex relationships, or on the desire to protect those relationships and the children brought into same-sex families with the legal protections of marriage. I would greatly appreciate it if you could explain to me ... how same-sex marriage “harms both the intrinsic dignity of every human person and the common good of society.” We who are gay and lesbian Catholics hear that so often, but I have never been given an answer as to how any two people committing themselves to each other and to the good of the human family, harms anyone. Do the Bishops really believe that if same-sex marriage were legalized, heterosexuals

would choose instead to marry someone of their own sex? What evidence is there that the change in law has hurt heterosexual couples or marriage? What DOES seem obvious to me, is that when homophobia is strong in a society, and when gay and lesbian people believe that if they are religious their only choice is to enter into a heterosexual marriage and suppress their sexual identity, that problems will abound; the marriage is doomed to failure—and spouses and children will suffer unnecessarily. It seems that everyone would be better off if we could live with integrity and honesty, owning who we are and the gift of relationship that God calls us to and with which God gifts us.

... what I do not understand is the unwillingness to listen to people’s stories, to reflect on their lives and the meaning of their commitments and their loves, and to admit that God just might be at work there. I think so often of the Gospel passage where the apostles wanted to call down fire from heaven because someone was healing but not in the name of Jesus. What was Jesus’ response? “... if the person was against me, he would not be able to do these good works. BY THEIR FRUITS YOU WILL KNOW THEM.” When I look at the fruits of the relationships of my GLBT friends who are in long-term committed relationships—friends like John and Gary—I can’t help but be amazed and praise God for what these people are doing.

And so ... when you discuss this pastoral ... please remember the message that you will be sending to those of us who are gay and lesbian.... Do we really need to be blamed for the problems of our

married heterosexual brothers and sisters? What will be the fruits of this pastoral: does condemning same-sex relationships do anything to strengthen and encourage married couples? ... and how many more GLBT Catholics will feel alienated and pushed farther away from their faith home? The way of Jesus was to sit down with the marginalized, and to ask them to tell him about their lives. In the telling, the Spirit of truth would bring light and healing and forgiveness... But there are so few ways in which GLBT persons have that kind of experience in the institutional church. Our parishes don't even seem able to include us in prayers of petition. All we hear is condemnation of that which we know to be sacred... And it is painful. I worry that we are losing a whole generation.... I grew up in Vatican II, and I have a broader understanding of Church; I know how much my church has given me, how blessed I am to be part of this Body of Christ. But the young people I work with don't often have that same sense. They find it hard to believe that there is any place for them in this church....



As I prayed Evening Prayer last week ... I was struck by this reading:

"I wonder: will we live to see the events of our days become "history"? I have a great desire to see all this sometime in the light of eternity. For one realizes ever more clearly how blind we are toward everything. One marvels at how mistakenly one viewed a lot of things before, and yet the very next moment one commits the blunder again of forming an opinion without having the necessary basis for

it." *Edith Stein: Self-Portrait in Letters*, p. 315

I fear that might possibly be what's happening here. Just as views of marriage have changed so that women are no longer considered to be property, and so that multiple wives are no longer thought to be a sign of God's favor, so, too, history may ultimately reveal that same-sex marriages are simply another reflection of God's love, a God who loves diversity. But even if I am wrong, I believe that God's compassion and mercy, God's unconditional love, would warn us against judging too harshly and condemning unnecessarily....

Sheila Nelson, St. Cloud MN

3-Letter from bisexual woman

.... I am a ... Catholic ... bisexual woman. I am married to the man I fell in love with, but am painfully aware that, had I fallen in love with a woman, I would be unable to enjoy the blessings of this type of union, according to the church. I have many friends who are members of the LBGT community. Some are in long-term partnerships, while others who live in states where same-sex marriage is allowed, have become officially married. Their marriages are no different from my own—they share the same blessings and struggles, and I believe that God is just as much a part of their marriages as mine.

.... I have certainly seen a spiritual two-in-one-flesh communion present in many relationships of those who are of the same sex; being of the same sex does not negate the ability to be two halves of the same whole or the ability to commune with each

other in a way that makes two people into one union.... Surely the Bishops would not mean to imply that those heterosexual marriages in which the spouses are no longer able to engage in sexual intercourse are, therefore, "incapable of realizing this specific communion of persons."...

.... Though the Church can ... make the argument that same-sex couples are unable to witness to the unique roles of a mother and father ... LGBT couples are completely capable of witnessing to the precious gifts of children. Though same-sex couples, in themselves, are unable to create life, they are often given the gift of children through ... adoption (similar to many heterosexual couples who either cannot have children or feel called to adopt), and many of them have children from previous relationships. While the Church may not believe that children should be conceived out of wedlock, this ... does happen, and I'm sure the Bishops can agree that providing children with two loving parents in a committed relationship is preferable to children having only one parent.

... though same-sex couples do not include a female and male partner, they do include two human beings who are completely capable of fulfilling all the roles that female mothers and male fathers do. ... numerous studies have shown ... that LGBT parents raise children that are just as healthy, mentally,



physically, and psychologically, as those raised by heterosexual parents.... same-sex unions are completely capable of witnessing to the precious gifts of children and the unique roles of mothers and fathers. ... to call them marriages does in no way disregard ... the nature or

institution of marriage....

... the Bishops note that one of the dangers of cohabitation is that, "At the heart of cohabitation lies a reluctance or refusal to make a public, permanent commitment." If to refuse ... to make a public, permanent commitment while living with a person you love is considered a negative thing for a woman and a man, certainly it must be so for same-sex couples....



The idea that including same-sex unions in the definition of marriage will somehow debase, destroy, or pose a "threat to the very fabric of society" ... is not supported by the evidence....

... To deny the option of living in a lifelong, committed, loving relationship with someone, simply because a person is unable to romantically love a person of the opposite sex, is untenable. Though some are called to celibacy and chaste friendships, it would be inaccurate ... and thoughtless to believe that God would call all LGBT people to that life.....

4-Letter from gay man

.... A family is far more than two biological parents living with their children – it is about a union of those who love and care for each other coming together to share fully their life and experiences

As God has fashioned all of us in His most Holy image, we, in reflection of God's nature, have each been endowed with the powerful elements of both male and female in degrees such that the father can be tender with his child and the mother can be sternly

guiding with her child. ... to limit God's ... human creation to the stark categories of exclusively male and exclusively female is to limit the awesome diversity that God ... has built into creation

.... Scripture tells us that in marriage the two shall leave their family homes and become one – a new flesh – and in doing so they have created a new life. The true miracle of marriage is not that the new couple can make babies ... the true miracle is that those two who were alone remain themselves but come together and also form an entirely new entity....

This document's clear denial of the monogamous, mutual, consenting, pure, and awesome love between the hundreds of thousands of gay and lesbian couples throughout the world is to fundamentally deny God's power to work through all of His children to both give and receive freely the gift of true love. It saddens me that the Church ... is so clearly moving away from what the Holy Spirit is calling us all to recognize – God's love anywhere and everywhere around us (and that includes in the committed relationships of gay and lesbian children of God)....

5-Letter from parents of gay son

... my wife and I see God's love in my gay son's marriage to his life partner. We ... cannot understand how their civil marriage effects society in such a negative way as described in this ... draft. They are accepted by their neighbors, our friends and relatives, their employers, and yes by many clergy. It is a shame that the church they love spends so much effort in decrying the rise of same sex marriage as one "of the most

troubling developments in contemporary culture".

6-Letter from mother of gay son

... take a second look at the words of Pope Benedict XVI: "All people feel the impulse to love authentically: love and truth never abandon them completely, because these are the vocation planted by God in the heart and mind of every human person. The search for love and truth is purified and liberated by Jesus Christ from the impoverishment that our humanity brings to it..." Think of those words when you think of same gender orientation....



... I hear all too often of the damage that the church does in making broad and condemning statements about relationships for people with same gender attraction. ... I do not believe ... our children are the biggest threat to marriage. ... I do not believe ... our children, in relationship, devalue the 'intrinsic dignity of every human person.' Instead, they show us ... love can overcome obstacles....

I am asking you ... to listen. This time BEFORE the pastoral letter is printed, LISTEN to parents, to people with same gender orientation. BE pastoral.... You cannot do this if you refuse to hear them. In your heart, create that space of holy silence, and listen before 'we as church' give the secular world another stick, with which to beat our children.

7-Letter from parents of gay son

.... My gay son was married last summer and he is one of the most upstanding, caring, intelligent, and

loving people you could ever meet. This is the kind of person the church should be attracting!

Christianity promotes the wonderful power of love, but this draft ... promotes hurtfulness and discrimination....

I hope you will reach out to the gay and lesbian community and find ... the vast benefits that these people could bring to the church, and I hope you will take a stand for a Christ-like love....



8-Letter from mother of gay son

... deep and abiding love does indeed exist between members of the same sex. It is ... one of commitment to another for a lifetime of caring about, sharing with, and devotion to a family unit.

Not all heterosexual marriages produce children and the commitment of the childless couple can remain strong. Marriage does not exist exclusively for the purpose of procreation. If it did, would it be proper for the elderly to marry or re-marry upon the death of a spouse? There must be other reasons, not the least of which would be a desire for a shared commitment based on mutual love.

... Our older son is gay. In his lifetime he has been a cub scout, an altar boy, a lector, an excellent student, a lawyer and now

leads pilgrimages to various shrines of the Blessed Mother ... He is not married. As a mother, I am proud of his accomplishments and would love to die knowing that he is in a happy, committed relationship. In conversation



with married friends no one has felt threatened by the possibility of same-sex marriages. In countries and states where same-sex marriage is lawful, no evidence exists that any harm has come to the "intrinsic dignity of every human person and the common good of society." ... The desire of same-sex couples to live in a loving and mutually-supportive commitment is quite refreshing.

... Gays ask for rights no different than those sought by any other person. ... for both heterosexual and homosexual persons: love is key....

9-Letter from gay man

... I was recently honored to be asked to walk a bride down the aisle at her wedding.... As I walked her down ... I again felt the presence of God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit manifested in the joy and the love that this couple shared.... I thought back to all of the other weddings I had been at and remembered that same feeling, that same presence. Whether these weddings were Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, non-denominational or wiccan, I felt that same joyous love. I felt the same joyous love at every same sex wedding I attended while it was legal in California. ... I feel the presence of God manifested in the love of every couple who is getting married....



I am 34 years old and I pray that someday I will find someone to marry and be able to marry him in my Church. But even if that does not come to pass, I know that the presence of God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit will be with me that day, no matter where I say "I Do."

10-Letter from mother of gay son

... In the light of all we have learned and experienced ... in ... human biology, anthropology, neurology, psychology, philosophy, sociology, and ...



Sacred Scripture, why would the bishops want to base their teaching about marriage on the Hebrew creation story of Adam and Eve?

... this Draft could be set aside in favor of one that would speak to the real lives of real people. Let the Document explain what the Church (all the people of God) does, and can do even better, to make the strains on human relationships less difficult to endure....

... are we not confusing "sexual acts" with a "homosexual relationship"? When Genesis quotes God as saying, "It is not good for man to be alone," must we assume that God was talking only to heterosexuals and excluding homosexuals from forming ... "a lifelong partnership... of mutual and exclusive fidelity, established by mutual consent ...and ordered towards the good of the spouses...and lived in openness to life...." ... thousands of gay partners have already formed families, and have adopted children....

... homosexual persons long for the stability of a home and family as strongly as their heterosexual brothers and sisters do....

It is not sufficient for the Bishops to state that, "they [homosexuals] must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity." Real efforts must be made to separate

the word “homosexuality” from the strong emotional association with sin and evil. Gay people are still being harassed, beaten, killed and denied rights ... heterosexuals take for granted. Youngsters are overwhelmed by their feelings and consider suicide the only way out of their isolation and fear. This Draft ... does nothing to dispel the hatred harbored toward gay and lesbian persons.

... Are the Bishops inviting input from persons, not clerics, who have long experience ministering to married couples and the Gay community?

Our Church has so much to offer there are renowned theologians ... nourishing the Faithful with their writings and discourses. I have a sense that even Bishops welcome their thoughts but fear using their ideas because...well, why do people fear doing the “right thing”?

11-Letter from gay man

... I was raised ... in a very Catholic household I was blessed with a close sense of God's presence in my life....

My own journey became troubled around age thirteen.... I loved God very deeply – and I began to discern an attraction to boys.

This was a private struggle for many years of adolescent research and prayer. God and I collaborated to try and make sense of the feelings I held inside. There were roadblocks at every turn

Catholic resources on the topic encouraged me to form “disinterested friendships” and to “conjoin my celibate sacrifice to

Christ’s own.” ... I prepared for this lifetime of sacrifice.

By ... 23, consumed by a profound loneliness and lack of hope for a Catholic-sanctioned, fully realized commitment to another man, I considered taking my own life, under the erroneous assumption that God would hate the "sin" of suicide less than the "sin" of a homosexual relationship.

At that time, a book saved my life. I prayerfully discovered the memoir “The Best Little Boy in the World” for the first time in my life, I realized my feelings of isolation were deceptive....



While that book helped me tremendously, the author was not raised within a religion – and I was not able to resolve some of my internal spiritual conflict through his words. My prayer journey continued with renewed hope. I am very grateful that, after years of reflection and discernment, in May of 2000, I was able to commit my life to another man, having the full certainty that God's grace has bound us together here on earth....

12-Letter from mother of gay son

I ... have the experience of having a homosexual son and his partner who would like to be officially married. I do not know if it should be called marriage or if they should have all the rights a married couple has as a civil union. I just know that they are truly compassionate, decent, loving partners and my son is a very good parent.... I couldn’t ... understand how gay couples can “harm the intrinsic dignity of every human person and the common good of

society.” The Church obviously does not understand how much damage it has done to gay and lesbian Catholics....

... I pray the bishops will be able to speak with a moral force without maligning more Catholics that they already have and begin to welcome to the church and its facilities ... groups who are struggling to support and encourage gays and lesbians, the divorced, the confused, ... women, and all others who feel ... excluded by the Church....

13-Letter from mother of gay son

... Have you listened to any gay or lesbian couples? ... listen to their stories before pronouncing their relationships a threat to marriage? We recently held a celebration of commitment ..., honoring same-sex couples. A number of them have been together longer than [we] have. How dare anyone pronounce such loving, committed relationships evil and a threat to anyone?

... your “pastoral” is anything but pastoral. It looks like a rehash of [what] ... you’ve been trying to beat into Catholics for years. Most of our children have already left the Church because they find your pronouncements irrelevant to their lives. Are you trying to drive the rest of us out ...?



... PLEASE, spend some time listening--before you issue any pastoral letter. Listen to married people ... to parents ... to gay and lesbian people and their families ... to young couples. We are all Church, and all of us have something valuable to contribute.

14-Letter from mother of lesbian daughter

I write to you as a Protestant married to a Catholic.... Mixed marriage 43 years ago ... was discouraged, but ... many of us ... have enjoyed mixed marriage many more years than the average Catholic or Protestant-only marriages. The difference is Love, enduring love, and commitment... . love has been the basis for our family of three, now mature daughters.... All ... have established relationships that have been meaningful to them and to us as parents.... they serve their communities and bring joy to friends and neighbors. One of the daughters is married to another woman. A commitment ceremony was performed by their community Priest - a great man who understands that Love may be expressed in many ways and that Love can be supported by a ... ceremony and the witness of friends and family. In the country where they ... live, their sanctified relationship now has ... legal status which strengthens their relationship with community, but most of all, their community supported their relationship and the community was strengthened by their presence and dedication.

15-Letter from supportive reader

Every now and then, Canon Law (212.3) requires the laity, in consideration of the common good and the dignity of all persons, to convey their opinion on matters relating to the Church.... I am compelled to express my disagreement with both the tone and direction of your letter particularly as it relates to same-sex relationships and



commitments.

While the introduction to the letter provides some positive perspectives, the main thrust ... outlines four challenges to the “nature and purpose of marriage”. Amazingly, none of these four “challenges” – contraception, same-sex unions, cohabitation, and divorce – are anything new. Nor does the letter offer any particularly new “pastoral” approach to these “challenges.” Condemning those lived experiences as “intrinsically evil” is neither helpful nor pastoral.

... the draft continues the far too familiar canard and overstated myth that same-sex unions are destroying heterosexual marriage and is “one of the most troubling developments in contemporary culture.” The letter goes on to say that same-sex marriage “redefines the nature of marriage and the family and, as a result harms both the intrinsic dignity of every human person and the common good of society.” The letter fails to say ... how same-sex marriage does this other than to suggest that because you say it, it is so.

... You would do well to study more diligently the experienced consequences in countries as Catholic as Spain, as different as South Africa and Sweden, and as close to us as Canada. You will find ... that these countries have embraced gay and lesbian marriage without any noticeable effect -- except the increase in human happiness and social stability that comes from permitting people to marry for love. And in Massachusetts, after five years of same-sex marriage, it remains the state with the lowest divorce rate. So ... how exactly do same-sex marriage and the quest for equal

rights and human dignity harm heterosexual marriage? Instead of condemning faithful and monogamous same-sex unions, you should celebrate them and encourage them for their contributions to societal stability and human happiness.

As for “redefining the nature of marriage,” ... look ... at the history of family relationships and the evolution of the institution of marriage. ... you will ... find that marriage as “one man and one woman” has not existed for very long -- rather there is a much longer history of one man and quite a few women (with the women treated largely as chattel). Marriage as a social institution ... continues to evolve.... The Church’s own teachings on marriage have evolved as well – both with respect to interracial marriage and interdenominational marriage. The Church would do well to be more responsive (and responsible) in helping to mold (as it did by supporting the end to anti-miscegenation laws in the late 1960’s) that evolution and helping to insure the “intrinsic dignity” (as opposed to the “intrinsic evil”) of every man and every woman.



Since our October newsletter 18 people and/or groups contributed to Fortunate Families. Thank you for enabling us to sustain this ministry to, with, for and by parents of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender daughters and sons!!

Fortunate Families, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity organization. Contributions are fully tax-deductible.

If you would like to help Fortunate Families in its continuing work to provide resources and networking opportunities for Catholic parents of LGBT daughters and sons, please download this page and send your contribution to:

Fortunate Families
P.O. Box 18082
Rochester, NY 14618-0082

Or you can go to <http://www.fortunatefamilies.com/donate.htm> to contribute on-line.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Fortunate Families

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