



Diocese of Austin

The Catholic Church of Central Texas
6225 Highway 290 East • Austin, TX 78723
www.austindiocese.org • (512) 949-2400

For Immediate Release – June 26, 2015
Contact: Christian R. González
Communications Director
(512) 949-2456
christian-gonzalez@austindiocese.org

Statement on Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage

AUSTIN – Bishop Joe S. Vásquez, bishop of the Diocese of Austin, released the following statement, in English and Spanish, today:

I am deeply saddened by the Supreme Court’s decision to require States to recognize same-sex marriages, because the opinion is based on the court’s belief that the culture has changed its views of marriage. This causes confusion among those who are faithful to the Gospel and erodes rights of persons in each State.

Regardless of the court’s decision, the nature of the human person and marriage remains unchanged and unchangeable. We will remain true and faithful to the Gospel and we will continue to call people to look deeply into the beauty and understanding of our theology of marriage.

Jesus taught that from the beginning marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman. We follow our Lord and will continue to teach and to act according to this truth. I join my brother bishops in encouraging the faithful to move forward with faith, hope, and love: *faith* in the unchanging truth about marriage, rooted in the immutable nature of the human person and confirmed by divine revelation; *hope* that these truths will once again prevail in our society, not only by their logic, but by their great beauty and manifest service to the common good; and *love* for all our neighbors, even those who disagree with our faith and moral convictions. We intend to proclaim the goodness, truth, and beauty of marriage as rightly understood for millennia.

Estoy profundamente entristecido por la decisión de la Corte Suprema de exigir a los Estados a reconocer a matrimonios de personas del mismo sexo, porque la opinión se basa en la creencia de la corte en que la cultura ha cambiado sus puntos de vista del matrimonio. Esto causa confusión entre los que son fieles al Evangelio y erosiona los derechos de las personas en cada Estado.

Independientemente de la decisión de la corte, la naturaleza de la persona humana y el matrimonio permanece inalterada e inalterable. Nos mantendremos siendo verdaderos y fieles al Evangelio y seguiremos llamando a la gente a mirar profundamente dentro de la belleza y comprensión de nuestra teología del matrimonio.

Desde un principio, Jesús enseñó que el matrimonio es la unión de toda la vida entre un hombre y una mujer. Nosotros seguimos a nuestro Señor y seguiremos enseñando y actuando de acuerdo a esta verdad. Me uno a mis hermanos obispos en animar a los fieles a seguir adelante con fe, esperanza y amor: *fe* en la verdad inmutable sobre el matrimonio, enraizada en la naturaleza inmutable de la persona humana y confirmada por la revelación divina; *esperanza* que estas verdades volverán a prevalecer en nuestra sociedad, no sólo por su lógica, sino por su gran belleza y obvio servicio hacia el bien común; y *amor* hacia todos nuestros vecinos, incluso aquellos que no están de acuerdo con nuestra fe y convicciones morales. Nosotros tenemos la intención de proclamar la bondad, la verdad y la belleza del matrimonio como ha sido entendido correctamente por milenios.

--30--

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin includes 127 parishes, or faith communities, in 25 counties in Central Texas. The diocese stretches over 21,000 square miles from West, Texas, (just north of Waco) in the north to San Marcos in the south to the Bryan/College Station area in the east to Mason in the west. Its largest metropolitan areas are Austin, Bryan/College Station, the Killeen/Temple/Belton area and Waco. More than 109,000 Catholic families live in the diocese, approximately 509,000 Catholics. There are 227 priests, 168 deacons, 46 brothers and 102 sisters serving in the diocese.