



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland

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Statement from Bishop Robert P. Deeley Regarding the Supreme Court Decision on Marriage

June 26, 2015

“Today’s decision of the Supreme Court requiring a civil recognition of same-sex ‘marriage’ is a profound disappointment for all who know marriage to be grounded in human nature in the complementarity of man and woman. In his recent Encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis warned against attempts to remake marriage and the family stressing the great importance of the family which is ‘the place in which life—the gift of God—can be properly welcomed’ and is ‘the heart of the culture of life’ (213).

Though the decision is a disappointment, we are also reminded that the Catholic Church believes in the respect that is due to all people, and that which preserves their human dignity. This respect is at the core of our faith, as is our belief in the authentic meaning and definition of marriage. Neither principle should be confronted with discrimination. I am thankful that the true principle of religious liberty is specifically upheld in this decision. As Justice Kennedy wrote in today’s decision, ‘it must be emphasized that religions, and those who adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned. The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths, and to their own deep aspirations to continue the family structure they have long revered.’

Marriage is a sacred bond; an institution that serves as the foundation of our society. The Church will remain devoted to celebrating this precious gift as it has been received from the Creator and is grateful for the religious liberty, as enshrined by our ancestors in our founding documents, which allows each of us to defend our values and beliefs.”