



Office of the Bishop  
**DIocese OF BAKER**  
PO BOX 5999 - BEND, OREGON 97708

PHONE—[541]388-4004  
FAX—[541]388-2566  
www.dioceseofbaker.org

29 June 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Baker,

The Supreme Court has re-defined marriage to accommodate couples of same-sex attraction throughout the land. In the strange new landscape the Justices have suddenly fashioned for our nation how are we as Catholic citizens to live our faith?

First of all we must think clearly together. Catholics believe the Pope can speak infallibly, not the Supreme Court. The Court's ruling does not change reality; judges cannot make true what is false. Marriage remains what it is—the union of one man and one woman for the generation of children.

But since, in the Court's opinion, there are absolutely no respectable reasons to think this way, those of us who persist in doing so can only be bigots. This means that our views as members of the largest Christian denomination in the United States are no longer worthy of mention in the national debate. We have been banished to the world within the walls of our churches, as have our fellow citizens who supported traditional marriage in 32 of the 35 states that had a chance to vote on the question before judges took it in hand. The re-definition of marriage re-defines religious liberty too—and not to the advantage of believers.

Since public opinion has been moving in the direction of marriage re-definition, the media instruct us that it is pointless to stand against a question the Court has now “settled.” So it was when the Supreme Court made abortion legal; public opinion moved in its direction too. But within a few years, as resistance gathered and grew, it became crystal clear that *Roe v. Wade* had not “settled” the abortion issue at all. Forty-two years later, with public opinion tending in a pro-life direction, momentum has turned against the abortion liberty the Court invented. In a similar way, we may confidently trust, the truth of marriage will emerge once again from the web of legal obscurity the Justices have woven around it. In St. Paul's words, “we have the mind of *Christ*” on this question, for Jesus taught us to see marriage as God designed it: the lifelong, two-in-one-flesh union of a man and a woman. And the mind of Christ is not the mind of a bigot.

So let us take our stand on the truth about marriage which God has revealed and right reason confirms, confident that the truth will set us free to restore marriage to its rightful place in our land.

In Christ Jesus,

*Bishop Liam Callahan*