



CATHOLICS FOR  
THE  
COMMON GOOD  
INSTITUTE

Choose to  
Stand with Children  
Support and Defend  
the Rights of Children,  
and Your Family



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Dear Fellow Catholic,

California Proposition 8 turned back the California Supreme Court same-sex "marriage" ruling that would have made it discriminatory to express a difference between same-sex "marriage" and traditional marriage. However, other laws are still on the books in California and across the country that undermine the true meaning of marriage and parents' rights to educate their children about it.

Have you ever wondered why we are seeing more grown children in our families or those of friends getting divorces, cohabitating, or having children out of wedlock? Today, an astounding forty percent of children are born outside of marriage. A dramatic marriage gap has formed between high school dropouts and college graduates.

We are witnessing the consequences of 40 years of cultural influences that are redefining marriage, family and human sexuality. This is such a threat to the dignity of the human person and to society that the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has made marriage and family a top priority and has developed a five-year program to promote them. *Stand with Children* is a complementary lay-led effort to support the common interest of every child without exception in having a married mother and father.

It is natural for everyone to desire a married mother and father. We can verify this by turning to our own experience. Therefore we know the heart's desire of every child.

The family is the first cell of social life – the first school of love, peace, and justice. Married mothers and fathers are critical to the development of children and for preparing them to be good citizens. There is a direct correlation between family breakdown and poverty, increasing incarceration rates, school dropout rates, and teen pregnancy. Supporting policies that promote marriage and family and opposing policies that undermine them is an imperative of social justice.

However, there is a private interest agenda to redefine marriage, family and human sexuality that conflicts with the public interest and the common interest of every child. At a time when schools should be promoting marriage, students are being taught that marriage is a lifestyle choice equivalent to cohabitation and other alternative lifestyles.

For example, a law that came into effect in early 2008 introduced viewpoint discrimination in public schools against anyone understanding marriage to be the foundation of the family providing children with a mother and a father. Even prior to this, the publicly funded Public Health Institute argued: "Reproductive bias is evident in the following statement: 'Changes in young women and men during puberty prepare them to reproduce and create new life'."\* They state that saying "a loving marriage is the best environment for children"\* also exhibits bias. This is just one example of many to show how the truth about marriage and human sexuality is being obscured from our children.

It is time to band together and fight for the integrity of our families and for social justice for children. It is time to make a choice between the private interests of particular adults and the common interest of every child without exception. **We hope your organization will choose to stand with children** and join a growing group of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting and supporting marriage.

For the common good,

William B. May  
Chairman, Catholics for the Common Good  
Executive Director, Catholics for the Common Good Institute

\* *Review of Health and Relationships in the New Millennium*, Public Health Institute, December 2006