



# MARRIAGE AND THE SUPREME COURT



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For the first time in our nation's history, the Supreme Court is considering two cases about whether or not marriage should be redefined to include two persons of the same sex. These cases involve the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California's Proposition 8, both of which define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

The Court is expected to rule on both cases by the end of June. A broad negative ruling could redefine marriage in the law throughout the entire country, becoming the "*Roe v. Wade*" of marriage. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has joined with many other organizations in urging the Supreme Court to *uphold* both DOMA and Proposition 8 and thereby to recognize the essential, irreplaceable contribution that husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, make to society, and especially to children.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### PRAY, FAST, SACRIFICE

The Bishops have encouraged Catholics to participate in a *Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty* during this Year of Faith. Visit [www.usccb.org/life-marriage-liberty](http://www.usccb.org/life-marriage-liberty) to learn more and commit to praying and fasting for life, marriage, and religious liberty.

The Bishops have also called for a second *Fortnight for Freedom* June 21-July 4. Visit [www.Fortnight4Freedom.org](http://www.Fortnight4Freedom.org).

Please consider contributing time, talent, and/or treasure to local or national efforts seeking to protect the unique meaning of marriage.

### ADVOCATE FOR MARRIAGE

#### *Lead messages*

Be a witness for the truth of marriage in word and action. Take advantage of opportunities to speak about marriage's unique meaning in conversation with friends, family, neighbors or co-workers. *Share the truth in love.*

Everyone has inviolable dignity and deserves love and respect. There are many ways to protect the basic human rights of all, but redefining marriage serves no one's rights, least of all those of children.

*What is marriage?* Marriage is the permanent and exclusive union of one man and one woman, for the good of the spouses and for the procreation and education of children. **One man, one woman—for life.** (See Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*, no. 48).

**The difference is the difference.** Men and women *matter*. They are equal but different. Sexual difference is essential to marriage.

**Mothers and fathers matter.** They aren't interchangeable. Every child has a basic, natural right to come from and be raised in the loving marital union of his or her own father and mother.

**Protecting marriage matters to everyone.** It's Catholic social teaching 101: *pro-woman, pro-man, pro-child*. Redefining marriage in the law says many false things: women - mothers - are dispensable; men - fathers - are dispensable; what adults want trumps what a child deserves and has a basic right to.

### LEARN MORE

Visit [MarriageUniqueForAReason.org](http://MarriageUniqueForAReason.org) for more resources on the authentic meaning of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. For resources for engaged couples and married couples, visit [ForYourMarriage.org](http://ForYourMarriage.org) and [PorTuMatrimonio.org](http://PorTuMatrimonio.org).