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Dear Parishioners,

On Friday, June 26th (2015) the United States Supreme Court by a 5-4 vote ruled that same sex couples have a fundamental right to obtain civil marriage licenses and enjoy the benefits that married couples currently have in this country. Furthermore, the Court ruled that the States may not oppose this decision.

As the Latin dictum goes, *lex mala lex nulla*, which means, "a bad law is no law."

In fact, the only truly valid laws are those which correspond to and do not contradict God's law, which is written in our nature and accessible to our reason. History is replete with bad laws, many issuing forth from our own high court, like the one that said that one person can be the enslaved property of another. So we ought not equate the civil law with what is morally good.

I would propose to you that the real "supreme court" is the Magisterium of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, which is backed by the promises of Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Today's bulletin contains a decree of that truly ultimate authority - an official Church document entitled, "Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons." I hope you will read carefully. It is a breath of fresh air in an ideologically noxious atmosphere. Written by then Cardinal Ratzinger (later Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) and promulgated by Pope Saint John Paul II, it bears the weight of official Catholic teaching. And it knocks the ball out of the park.

Marriage is an indissoluble and mutually faithful union of one man and one woman who are open to having children. Intrinsic to this institution, which began in Eden with the creation of man, "male and female," is the potential for the bringing forth of the future generation. The love of husband and wife is designed to protect that future offspring. Their love and the laws traditionally established to defend it helps to bring about the favorable conditions for the establishment of families, which are the core cell of society. Marriage is thus oriented outward to others, not inward toward some neurotic, mutually self-indulgent cocoon as in same sex liaisons.

Granted, not every heterosexual couple conceives. Some are elderly and others are suffering sterility through no fault of their own. Yet in both these cases the heterosexual couple has chosen the proper paradigm because they are capable of that act which is per se apt for conception. Their dignity is not impugned and they retain their noble status as truly married persons.

Everything else in today's increasingly weird cornucopia of "preferences" is an abuse of the gift of sexuality. We used to call them "perversions," and would not mention them in polite company.

This assertion, once universally comprehended in Western Civilization, now "offends." But does anyone remember that SIN is an offense in its own right, and against God Almighty; even if done in secret, even if done between two consenting "adults?"

So if one accepts the idea that marriage is "just about love," then one opens a door with some very scary monsters behind it. Already there are voices calling for the recognition of "thruples" of threesome unions. That makes traditional polygamy seem tame. And why not incest, whether homosexual or heterosexual? What is the Court's argument against such aberrations now that procreation has been excised from the definition of marriage?

My friends, the Supreme Court has insulted the noble institution of marriage. Be confident that the Catholic Church will continue to uphold it as the great and holy Sacrament of Matrimony.

-Father de Rosa