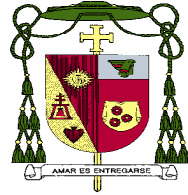


DIocese OF SAN BERNARDINO



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am disappointed in the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling today because it represents further departure from the way our country's legal system defines the institution of marriage. This new definition does not reflect Catholic thought and belief about marriage.

At the same time, we recognize the dignity of those who are homosexual. As they are loved by God and created in his image, we count them as our brothers and sisters.

We may feel disappointed by this ruling but we must remember that it has no jurisdiction over how we, as Roman Catholics, celebrate and practice the Sacrament of Matrimony. Let us take this moment to look again at what our faith teaches us about marriage, an expression of love and commitment between man and woman, a sign of Christ's love for us, and a source of new life in God's plan for humanity. The best way for us to voice our opinion about the definition of marriage today is to understand and live the Sacrament as a sign of our faith and a gift from God.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes