

A National Plan for the Defense of Marriage



Safeguarding marriage and family

*...a scholar of the law tested him by asking,
"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"*

*He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.
This is the greatest and the first commandment.*

*The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."*

Mt 22:35-40

50 Shepherds of the Church

*His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Jesus Christ,
Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church—Vatican City*

Most Rev. Raymond L. Burke, Prefect of the Apostolic Signatura—Vatican City

H.E. Francis Cardinal George—Archdiocese of Chicago IL

Most Rev. Martin Holley—Washington DC

Most Rev. William Murphy—Rockville Center NY

Most Rev. Roger L. Schwietz, OMI—Archdiocese of Anchorage AK

Most Rev. John Vlazny—Archdiocese of Portland OR

H.E. Justin Cardinal Rigali—Archdiocese of Philadelphia PA

Most Rev. Gregory Aymond—Diocese of Austin TX

Most Rev. Thomas Wenski—Diocese of Orlando FL

Most Rev. Charles Chaput, OFM Cap—Archdiocese of Denver CO

Most Rev. George Niederauer—Archdiocese of San Francisco CA

H.E. Sean Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap—Archdiocese Boston MA

Most Rev. Robert McManus—Archdiocese of Worcester MA

Most Rev. John Myers—Archdiocese Newark, NJ

Most Rev. Richard Garcia—Archdiocese Monterey, CA

Most Rev. Oscar Solis—Archdiocese Los Angeles CA

Most Rev. Gabino Zavala – Archdiocese of Los Angeles CA

Most Rev. Octavio Cisneros—Archdiocese Brooklyn NY

Most Rev. William Lori—Archdiocese Bridgeport CT

Most Rev. John C. Favalora—Archdiocese of Miami FL

Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane —Diocese of Venice FL

Most Rev. Victor Galeone—Diocese of St. Augustine FL

Most Rev. John H. Ricard, SSJ—Diocese of Pensacola/
Tallahassee FL

Most Rev. Robert N. Lynch—Diocese of St. Petersburg FL

Most Rev. Gerald Barbarito—Diocese of Palm Beach FL

Most Rev. Felipe J. Estevez—Archdiocese of Miami FL

Most Rev. Jerome Listecki—Diocese of LaCrosse WI

Most Rev. Peter F. Christensen—Diocese of Superior WI

Most Rev. Joseph W. Estabrook—Archdiocese Military Svcs.

Most Rev. Sam G. Jacobs—Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux LA

Most Rev. John F. Kinney—Diocese of St Cloud MN

Most Rev. Joseph Kurtz—Archdiocese of Louisville KY

Most Rev. Jaime Soto—Diocese of Sacramento CA

Most Rev. Daniel Conlon—Diocese of Steubenville OH

Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann—Diocese of Fort Worth TX

Most Rev. J. Kevin Boland—Diocese of Savannah GA

Most Rev. Gerald Gettelfinger—Diocese of Evansville IN

Most Rev. Fabian Bruskwitz—Diocese of Lincoln NE

H.E. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo—Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston TX

H.E. Adam Cardinal Maida—Archdiocese of Detroit MI

Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores—Archdiocese of Detroit MI

Most Rev. Moses B. Anderson—Archdiocese of Detroit MI

Most Rev. Patrick R. Cooney—Diocese of Gaylord MI

Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley—Diocese of Grand Rapids MI

Most Rev. James A. Murray—Diocese of Kalamazoo MI

Most Rev. Carl F. Mengeling—Diocese of Lansing MI

Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample—Diocese of Marquette MI

Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson—Diocese of Saginaw MI

Most Rev. Joseph F. Naumann—Archdiocese of Kansas City KS

H.E. Edward Cardinal Egan—Archdiocese of New York NY

Most Rev. Gabino Zavala of Archdiocese of Los Angeles,
Chairman of the USCCB task force on strengthening marriage



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New Haven, Connecticut*

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H.E. Francis Cardinal George of Chicago President of the Bishops Conference

October 26, 2008

Your Eminence,

Please let me introduce you to **Defending Our Father's House**, a national Catholic vision and leadership organization whose mission is to **establish the legal and institutional integrity of marriage and family** in order to provide safeguards for married couples, families and children, and for our society overall.

At this time, we are a group of 18 professionals dedicated to supporting marriage and family. We are 16 Roman Catholics, one Anglican and one Presbyterian. Some of us are also involved in interfaith work centering on the foundational issue of marriage. We are reaching out to Christian denominations as well as Jews, Muslims and others who worship Our Father.

Our organization is made up of those with expertise in constitutional law, marriage law, legal history, international economics, health insurance, moral investments, the needs of military families, psycho-social research, clinical psychology, canon law, medical care, political science, Catholic Hispanic leadership, community marriage policy, journalism and political science, to name a few.

Together, we are pooling accumulated interdisciplinary knowledge and experience to formulate a comprehensive plan that addresses the historical shortfalls undermining marriage. Our plan, which is already well developed, continues to grow as we incorporate new information. We are eager to use our talents in the Service of the Lord.

We have come together in faith and mutual concern: Our Nation, the United States of America, is collapsing!

What sets **Defending Our Father's House** apart from other groups is that our service to the Kingdom of God follows a particular model of leadership that Christ provided – as a 12 year old boy and as a 33 year old man defending His Father's House with specific actions in the Temple. Our team draws from this model to address concerns that others avoid.

At this time, we are witnessing the “**most expensive social-issue election in the history of the country**” in which the forces supporting a redefinition of marriage have invested millions of dollars in “mammon” to defeat California's Proposition 8. “Marriage” is facing the firing squad and soon it will be too late.

The “execution” began in 1969, when California wiped out over one hundred years of legal protections encoded in the law, in particular, “adultery,” as a ground for divorce. Now, any married person can sever his or her marital ties in California because no legal basis is needed. Divorce has become an “at-will” option which puts traditional marriage in the same category as same-sex “marriage” – marriage no longer has any real meaning.

Adultery as defined in Black's Law Dictionary is “sexual intercourse” which **would not** include the intimate activities of same-sex couples. Therefore, by eliminating this ground, marriage became neutral territory, opening the door to other dyadic options. When we only address one part of the defense of marriage, we are doing



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an incomplete job. That is why we feel such a great urgency to meet with you and present this **fuller picture** of what the defense of marriage must mean.

In the **Sermon on the Mount**, Our Lord said, “**And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand.**” The fool is our own American Bar Association (ABA) that undermined the Institution of Marriage in such a fundamental way that it opened the door to what is happening now. The time has come to address this other part of marriage “defense”, beginning with calling to account the Catholic attorneys who earn a living destroying families by day and on Sundays show up to offer the sign of Peace and to receive Holy Communion.

In 1858, lawyer and faithful Bible scholar, Abraham Lincoln, addressed his supporters, quoting Mark 3:25

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

In his prophetic wisdom, our 16th President looked out at America and saw it divided over the issue of slavery. Some Americans wanted to maintain the institution of slavery for financial gain and some found it morally reprehensible.

At issue was fidelity to the Founding Values of our Nation, and Lincoln’s deft use of language and subliminal inference directed the listener to the words of Jesus. His speech addressed the incongruities of slavery by saying that Americans could not serve both God and mammon, but needed to decide which it would be – a nation of free people, or one allowing slavery.

He saw a fundamental injustice in letting each state decide for or against slavery while his opposition defended the right to own slaves as a “**sacred**” right. Using this very same argument, on October 10, 2008 the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage is a “sacred” right.

Again, as it was for Our Savior Jesus Christ and for his beloved Apostle Paul, the issue was **the law**, with the machinations of men ruling over the natural laws of the Creator, Our Father. Abraham Lincoln twice faced former Illinois Supreme Court Justice Stephen A. Douglas - in the 1858 Illinois Senate race he lost and again in the 1860 presidential race in which he finally prevailed. Then as now it was a contest between fidelity and brokenness.

The Connecticut Supreme Court Justices’ language spoke of marriage in the highest regard for many reasons, recognizing it’s historical contributions to mankind and acknowledging it as a fundamental liberty right, essential to the pursuit of happiness. For these reasons, they claimed that the rights of marriage could not be denied to same-sex couples.

Nowhere in this decision did anyone address the rights of children, vulnerable human beings entering the world through the miracle of life, the very purpose and fruit of marriage, to be safeguarded in their lives and development, to be loved and nurtured by their two complementary parents who conceived them through their act of procreation.



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Here again, judges were denying any debt to the Creator, defying nature, and basing their arguments on relativistic rights that uphold the narcissistic urges of individuals over the natural justice owed to other stakeholders in the institution of marriage. For though many in this country may deny the existence of a God, a just society must, at the very least, function as if God **does indeed** exist, because so many of its citizens live their lives with a fundamental belief in God.

Lincoln knew exactly what he wanted to communicate for the historical record. The “scribes” – the lawyers of the day – accused Christ of being possessed by the Lord of Evil, Beelzebub, for his faithfulness to God in loving his fellow man. Christ asked, “How can Satan drive out Satan?” Now the guardians of the law – our judges – would convince us there is justice in violating natural law, because they argue that marriage is sacred for homosexual men and women, even though they can never conceive children naturally.

Do you know the story of how, between 1965 and 1973, the “guardians of our laws” met **in the shadows** and conspired to find a way to remove all of the traditional safeguards from marriage: the one-man / one-woman relationship that originated in Genesis some 3500 years ago? In violation of the guarantees promised in our U.S. Constitution, the ABA undermined the institution of marriage, replacing it with the institution of divorce, never for a moment considering the sacredness of what they were destroying, nor the impact it would have on children for years to come. In fact, divorce and abortion are similar in that the children have no voice.

In 1858, Lincoln was describing a House that divided North against South, but today, America’s new ‘**civil war**’ places the fault line between female and male, both outside and within the home, tearing the heart out of the one-flesh union. Surely, a nation founded on institutional infidelity such as practiced by the Bar, can only collapse and be completely ruined when the rain falls and the floods come.

The marriage crisis today is far greater than the challenge pressed by homosexuals who want to be allowed to ‘marry.’ For the survival of the Roman Catholic Church, the demise of marriage is a far worse scandal than the early homosexual / pedophile tragedy that nearly brought down our beloved Church.

When members of the Bar maneuvered No-Fault Divorce into every state in the Union they extinguished over 100 years of safeguards without holding any public hearings or giving consideration to the long-term ramifications upon the Rule of Law, upon the guarantees provided by the US Constitution, upon the unalienable rights endowed by the Creator, upon the economy and security of the nation, and most poignantly upon this nation’s children.

Since that time, more than 43 million ‘dissolutions of marriage’ have been granted, with many millions of them Catholic marriages. Over 30 million children are casualties of unilateral, state-imposed, divorce-on-demand and many millions more of out-of-wedlock births. This is a tragedy of historic, mass injustice, tightly and purposefully intertwined with the injustice of abortion that has resulted in 50 million nascent lives sacrificed.

The time has come to expose this holocaust so that our families, communities, and nation will finally see what was done. It is time to begin the care and protection of marriage and family in a renewal that can dramatically surpass that which existed before.

Defending Our Father’s House is ready to help lead the way in re-establishing the institution of marriage in our society. Through the inspiration of our Lord and Savior in defending His Father’s House and in fidelity to the Eucharistic covenant between Christ and his Church, which is **marriage**, we are ready to light the way.



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We are preparing a formal grant proposal for our plan to defend Catholic marriage as well as **all marriage** in America. As we accomplish this task, with guidance from our Shepherds and the Magisterium, we will transform the face of the earth. America will light the way for all nations in safeguarding marriage, family and the parent-child relationship.

We request an opportunity to meet with you as soon as possible to address this most-urgent matter and to share with you all that we envision.

Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI came to America in April of 2008 to light the torch of Hope, a hope he described so eloquently in his first encyclical on Love, and reinforced in his second encyclical on Hope. He spoke of fidelity. The power of the Holy Spirit is now working through our previous beloved Holy Father John Paul the Great, and our current Holy Father Benedict XVI, the spiritual rock placed in our midst by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Eminence, on behalf of your servants who are part of **Defending Our Father's House**, I await word on how we may begin.

Your Servant In Christ,



*Michael T. Ross, MD
President, Defending Our Father's House
Holy Name Council # 14018 K of C
Birmingham, Michigan*

DOFH TEAM MEMBERS

Executive Board

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Katherine Spaht, JD, Baton Rouge, LA, Law Professor–Louisiana State Univ.

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Defending Our Father's House

P.O. Box 366

Troy, MI 48099

phone: 248-561-7272

mtross152@comcast.net