

Statement of the Missouri Catholic Conference on City of St. Louis Officials Conducting Same-Sex Ceremonies in Violation of the Missouri Constitution

The Missouri Catholic Conference is deeply disappointed that Mayor Slay and other public officials of the City of St. Louis have chosen to conduct same-sex ceremonies in open defiance of the Missouri Constitution, which protects marriage as a union of one man and one woman.

Marriage has existed for centuries as the union of one man and one woman for the benefit of the spouses, the creation of a stable environment for the upbringing of children, and to serve as the fundamental building block of society for the common good. Public officials fail in their duty to protect this institution and the common good by taking actions designed to re-define marriage.

Catholic teaching respects the dignity of all people, including those with same-sex attraction; but this same teaching proclaims the truth that marriage is the union of one man and one woman only. This teaching on the true nature of marriage is shared by many other faith traditions, as well as people of good will.

As the public policy agency of the Catholic bishops of Missouri, the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) is charged with seeking the common good of all Missourians. The MCC urges the Missouri Attorney General to defend the state constitution and to protect the institution of marriage, an institution that is vital to the continued well-being of our state.