



Indiana Catholic Conference

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SJR 7 Definition of Marriage

"The Catholic Church believes and teaches that marriage is a faithful, exclusive, and lifelong union between one man and one woman, joined as husband and wife in an intimate partnership of life and love. Marriage exists so that the spouses might grow in mutual love and, by the generosity of their love, bring children into the world and serve life fully." Promote Preserve and Protect Marriage USCCB September 2003

The Catholic Church shares its definition and concern for preserving marriage as the union of a man and a woman with believers and non-believers, Christians and non-Christians alike. The definition of marriage as a union of a man and a woman is part of the common moral heritage of humanity.

As a basic human and social institution, marriage, though regulated by civil laws and church laws, did not originate either from the church or the state, but from God. Therefore, neither church nor state can alter the basic meaning and structure of marriage.

Marriage is a vital institution that supports the well-being of children, families, communities and society itself. It is unique because of its traditional and foundational role in societal structure. Human society affirms marriage which brings men and women together so that society has the next generation it needs to continue and children have mothers and fathers, as they need. The Indiana Court of Appeals decision, *Morrison v Sadler*, affirms this position in upholding Indiana's law defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

However the debate and effort to redefine marriage continues in our nation and state. Because the institution of marriage has been weakened and eroded by many forces, the Indiana Catholic Conference supports efforts to defend and strengthen the definition of marriage within Indiana. SJR 7 will strengthen Indiana's law.

"The union of husband and wife becomes, over a lifetime, a great good for themselves, their family, communities, and society. Marriage is a gift to be treasured and protected." Between Man and Woman USCCB 2003

ICC supports SJR 7 and urges passage.

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