



**IOWA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**  
The Public Policy Voice of the Bishops of Iowa

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## For Immediate Release

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### **Statement by Iowa Catholic bishops on gay marriage decision**

The Catholic bishops of Iowa have issued the following statement on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to require states to license a marriage between two people of the same sex:

"The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on marriage saddens us. To make something legal does not mean that it is true or good. Take, for example, the ruling that legalized abortion.

Notwithstanding this ruling, we will continue to lead people to live under the Gospel, which requires us to be humble and loving to all others, regardless.

The Gospel also compels us to defend and share with others Jesus' teaching on marriage, which re-asserted the original plan of creation, and which no one can rend asunder:

*One man and one woman who freely give themselves to each other in a permanent and exclusive partnership, to be helpmates for each other, and to be open to conceiving and bringing up children.*

We believe that this understanding of marriage does no harm; on the contrary, it serves the common good of society, as well as the good of family life, and of children.

We still expect that true religious liberty, enshrined in our Constitution, and won at such a dear price, will be honored, allowing us to be guided by a faith-formed conscience in our teaching and practice."

Most Rev. Michael Jackels, Archbishop of Dubuque

Most Rev. Martin Amos, Bishop of Davenport  
Most Rev. Richard Pates, Bishop of Des Moines  
Most Rev. R. Walker Nickless, Bishop of Sioux City