

## **SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSION MARRIAGE CANON**

Frankly, I am fed up with this issue and fed up with all the grief and pain from the Same Sex Blessing debate, that is now being reopened.

I have no idea what God's opinion is on this subject. He/she has been remarkably silent about it to me! However, I see that much harm has been done to our church because of the same sex blessing issue. And, at the end of all this, apparently only a small handful of people, in our diocese, have availed themselves of the Church Blessing service, while untold numbers of people have left our church.

Pierre Trudeau was right when he said that we have no business in the bedrooms of the people and personally, I am glad that homosexuality is no longer considered to be a crime or a punishable offense. A great many homosexual people are doing much good in the world and I thank God for them.

However, there are so many much more pressing needs in our society and in the world. There are people dying of hunger, disease and loneliness and even torture daily. Surely, we should be addressing these needs before opening another totally unnecessary debate. I was present at General Synod in Ottawa when the vote was taken, perhaps I should have spoken out then but I doubt it would have altered history! However, I do urge those of you who are members of this Commission who are in favour of changing the Marriage Canon to ask yourselves the real purpose of this debate. It is fairly obvious that the earlier debate was to persuade and influence government to change legislation so that same sex couples could claim benefits, pensions etc. But are you certain that there is no ulterior motive behind changing this Canon? Why open this debate yet again?

I strongly urge all members of this Commission to refute any suggested changes to the Marriage Canon.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Jane Fowler

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