

Submission regarding the amendment to the Marriage Canon XXI

To Commission on the Marriage Canon
Sept. 15, 2014

I interpret the essence of marriage as being a reflection of the union between Christ and His Church, as stated in the apostolic witness. It is a sacrament pointing to what is intended to be a lifetime union of man and woman under their Creator, instituted in the time of our innocence, and so to be lived out in fidelity. It is to reflect the beauty of creation and the wholeness, love and purity of the One who instituted it. As the inward grace is worked out, both partners are meant to experience the fullness of life in soul, mind and heart.

Gender difference in marriage is meant, as male and female, to complete the sacramental meaning, ie. that both genders together reflect those attributes of God with which He ministers to His people. It is therefore an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace as it is applied to those who have partnered in the covenant. To me, a marriage without the joining of both of these genders is an anomaly of nature and devoid of the theological significance of the complementary difference with the two joined together. It is consistent with the nature of God to be reflected as well as His intention for creation that each gender must complement the other. In the diversity between male and female, the roles and psychologies of each are meant to create a whole, in harmony and love.

Civil marriage is a legal affair based on the reality of friendship. Christian marriage is embedded in the reality of Christ, deriving its substance, power and meaning from His Spirit which indwells the couple both individually and together.

The companionship, the bearing of children and the sexuality enjoyed are all to be for the health and wholeness of those involved and of society in general, of which the family is the basic unit. It is to reflect the joy and fulfillment which God means to bring to the human condition, the ultimate form of which is found in Christ.

I thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the discernment process and will pray for a wise and faithful decision in His will. I trust that the conscience clause will remain in effect even if the motion to amend is passed and the Church in general proceeds to live in acceptance of the new practice. Such clauses have in the past had a way of being suspended after a period of time. I would not be able to continue to officiate over this sacrament without the clause in place. In our efforts to be relevant to society we are compromising the Faith; we are meant to be counter-cultural.

Sincerely,

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