

Respect for every person

Pope Francis has highlighted that “every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration, while every sign of unjust discrimination is to be carefully avoided.”¹⁸ However, he has also pointed out that “there are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God’s plan for marriage and family.”¹⁹

Conclusion

In our current historical context in which the legal definition of marriage is being questioned, Pope Francis has stated that “as Christians, we can hardly stop advocating marriage simply to avoid countering contemporary sensibilities, or out of a desire to be fashionable.”²⁰ These thoughts from Pope Francis should give us a reason to reflect on what is at stake in the postal plebiscite on the legal definition of marriage.



cc flickr: Chilaam Ly, Wedding rings



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**“Marriage is more than a fleeting fashion;
it is of enduring importance.” Pope Francis**

Endnotes

1. Pope Francis, General Audience, 29 April 2015
2. Pope Francis, General Audience, 15 April 2015
3. Pope Francis, General Audience, 15 April 2015
4. Pope Francis, General Audience, 15 April 2015
5. Pope Francis, General Audience, 15 April 2015
6. Pope Francis, General Audience, 15 April 2015
7. Pope Francis, Address to the International Colloquium on the Complementarity between Man and Woman, 7 November 2014
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9. Amoris Laetitia 172
10. Amoris Laetitia 172
11. Amoris Laetitia 52
12. Gay rights activists target IBM executive, The Australian, Rebecca Urban, 21 March, 2017
13. <http://nationalpost.com/news/canada/ontario-liberals-to-introduce-updated-version-of-sex-education-curriculum-pulled-in-2010-over-religious-objections>
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16. Same-sex education ruling an ‘attack on parents’ rights’, The Australian, Joe Kelly, November 30, 2016
17. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/private-jewish-school-lgbt-issues-fail-ofsted-inspection-vishnitz-girls-london-orthodox-sex-british-a7809221.html>
18. Amoris Laetitia 250
19. Amoris Laetitia 251
20. Amoris Laetitia 35

Diocese

Address / email

Website



cc flickr: Mona Valga, FOTO Ina & Lora

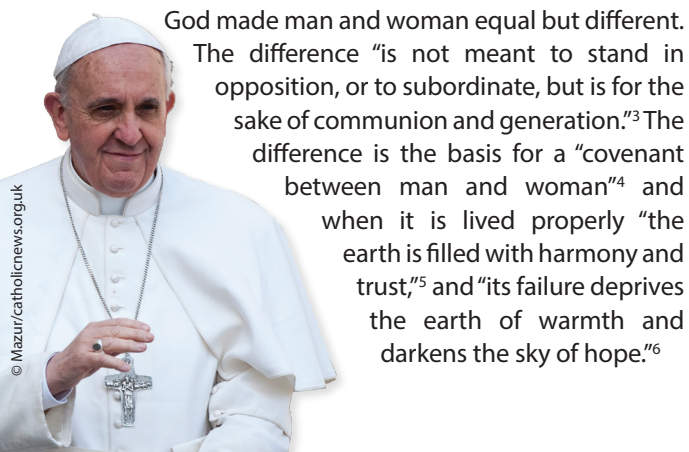
Pope Francis, Marriage & the Plebiscite

Pope Francis on Marriage

God's masterpiece

Pope Francis grounds his teaching on marriage and the family by reflecting on the creation accounts in Genesis. He points out that in "the Book of Genesis, when God completes his work of creation and makes his masterpiece; the masterpiece is man and woman."¹ God's masterpiece has a special quality because "it is not man alone who is the image of God or woman alone who is the image of God, but man and woman as a couple who are the image of God."²

Equal but different



God made man and woman equal but different. The difference "is not meant to stand in opposition, or to subordinate, but is for the sake of communion and generation."³ The difference is the basis for a "covenant between man and woman"⁴ and when it is lived properly "the earth is filled with harmony and trust,"⁵ and "its failure deprives the earth of warmth and darkens the sky of hope."⁶



Motherhood and fatherhood

One of the most fundamental aspects of marriage is parenting. Pope Francis has taught that "every child has a right to receive love from a mother and a father; both are necessary for a child's integral and harmonious development."⁹ Furthermore, this right is not just concerned with "the love of father and mother as individuals, but also of their mutual love, perceived as the source of one's life and the solid foundation of the family."¹⁰ Consequently "only the exclusive and indissoluble union between a man and a woman has a plenary [comprehensive, complete or full] role to play in society as a stable commitment that bears fruit in new life."¹¹



A unique union of man and woman

Pope Francis views "the union of man and woman in marriage as a unique, natural, fundamental and beautiful good for people, families, communities and societies."⁷ He also sees that "as a social institution, marriage protects and shapes a shared commitment to deeper growth in love and commitment to one another, for the good of society as a whole. That is why marriage is more than a fleeting fashion; it is of enduring importance."⁸

Consequences of a YES vote

Limiting freedom of speech:

Activists will use Anti-Discrimination laws to limit what can be said on issues like marriage, as experienced by Archbishop Julian Porteous.

Limiting freedom in the workplace:

Even in Australia, people have been made to resign from voluntary roles performed outside of work if deemed incompatible with "equality", e.g. Mark Allaby at PwC and IBM.¹²

Limiting freedom of conscience:

Wedding services providers in other countries have been sued or fined for declining to participate in same-sex wedding ceremonies.

Mandatory "Safe School" sex education:

Radical sex education programs have been imposed on faith based schools in Canada since marriage was redefined.¹³

Erasing the legal significance of biological sex:

Transgender issues have closely followed marriage redefinition in other countries.¹⁴

Removal of mothers and fathers:

In Ontario, Canada, the All Families Are Equal Act 2016 has replaced all references to "mother" or "father" in the law to "parent," and birth certificates now allow up to four "parents".¹⁵

Removal of parental rights:

Canadian parents have been prevented from removing their children from "Safe School" style sex education classes.¹⁶

Closing of "non-compliant" schools:

In the UK, Vishnitz Girls School, is facing closure for refusing to teach primary school girls about sexual orientation and gender re-assignment.¹⁷

Check out www.coalitionformarriage.com.au for more details on the consequences of changing the law.