



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 5, 2014**

### **CATHOLIC CONFERENCE COMMENTS ON COURT OF APPEALS RULING**

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference offered the following reaction in response to the ruling by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals finding that the state's constitutional provision defining marriage violates the U.S. Constitution:

The Seventh Circuit Court's ruling follows the trend of similar decisions across the nation. These opinions focus on opposition and animus, rather than the state's recognition of the nature of marriage. We now await a determination by the U.S. Supreme Court on whether a state and its citizenry retain the power and right to define civil marriage.

No court can change our Catholic teaching on marriage and no one is suggesting that the ruling will have that effect.

As Pope Francis said, "The image of God is the married couple: the man and the woman; not only the man, not only the woman, but both of them together. This is the image of God: love, God's covenant with us is represented in that covenant between man and woman. And this is very beautiful!"

Whatever the Supreme Court decides, the challenge for Catholics going forward is the same as it has always been, to witness our belief in marriage and what it signifies in a way that invites others to share in our belief.

- 30 -

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