

Vote 'yes' for marriage



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A pastoral statement from the bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference in support of Proposition 102

Arizona voters will be voting on a number of important ballot initiatives this Nov. 4, among them Proposition 102, which would amend the Arizona Constitution by providing a legal definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman.

We support Proposition 102, and we encourage the support of Catholics in our dioceses.

Our support is based upon our Church's teachings on the sanctity of marriage as a faithful, exclusive, lifelong union of a man and a woman joined in an intimate community of life and love.

The amendment to the Arizona Constitution that will result with voter approval of Proposition 102 simply states, "Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state."

We believe Proposition 102 is in alignment with our deeply held moral beliefs regarding marriage. We believe that without constitutional protection, Arizona's present law on marriage could be changed — to the detriment of society — either by court action or by legislative action. In effect, without constitutional protection, the legal definition of marriage as we understand it today in Arizona is subject to redefinition.

We encourage Catholic voters in our dioceses and all voters in Arizona who wish to learn more about the Catholic meaning of marriage to revisit the pastoral letter that we issued in 2006 entitled "Why is Marriage Important to the Catholic Church?" This document may be found at www.azcatholicconference.org.



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