

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

To: Diocesan Marriage Contacts

Re: Update #17, May 9, 2005

The Special Legislative Committee

The vote on Second Reading has now come and gone. The results of the vote were not promising for those of us who support traditional marriage. However, we cannot stop putting forward our arguments. Traditional marriage has served society well and we are weakening the fabric of our social structure one more time. We are obliged to keep pointing this out.

Our opportunity should come before the Special Committee if the members of that Committee take their duty to the country seriously. This remains to be seen. We need to be prepared. Many groups have been putting briefs together. If the opportunity to present these is not given, they should be sent in.

Other Action

More than ever, we should now be ensuring that Christian marriage is a shining light to the world. We, as Church, need to ensure that Catholics fully appreciate the sacramental nature of marriage and both its joys and obligations.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

You have already received the bulletin insert and the text of "Does marriage need to be re-defined in Canada?" from the CCCB. The hope is that in the month of May that material will reach as many Catholics as possible right across Canada.

The Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops

In the week of May 9 you will receive from OCCB two one-page pieces of paper.

The first will contain a summary of the reasons for championing traditional marriage. Please seek to have this distributed as a bulletin insert in parish bulletins or by some other method that will reach parishioners.

The second is a list of suggestions for a celebration of marriage in parishes in the month of June, the beginning of "the marriage season". A celebration of sacramental marriage, however large or small, at this time will be powerfully symbolic.

Rally at Queen's Park on May 23, 2005

There is a rally being organized at Queen's Park in support of marriage on Monday, May 23 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. Any support, or promotion, of this rally would be greatly appreciated by the organizers. I will forward the material I have received.

Tom Reilly