

CATHOLICS FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY GOD IS LOVE

Thank you for being a Catholic committed to social justice work.

Catholics for Marriage Equality [C4ME] exists (1) to give hope to those who are hurt and angry by our bishop's advocacy to overturn marriage equality for our gay and lesbian relatives and friends and, (2) to educate and motivate Catholics to vote "No on 1 to Protect Marriage Equality."

C4ME will disseminate information that is truthful and respectful stating why marriage equality is a matter of civil rights and social justice that Catholics are free to support -- indeed, may feel compelled to support as a matter of conscience and responsible citizenship.

All emails will be "blind" so names will not be shared via our list. If there are people who should be added, please have them contact me [underwooda@suscom-maine.net].

ACTION ALERTS: Sept. 12-13 the bishop is requiring priests to preach on the church's stance against same-sex marriage. Special second collection envelopes will go directly from parishioners to Maine Marriage Initiative's political campaign. ***C4ME proposes several peaceful but effective actions in our parishes so the diocese will know it is not speaking for all faithful Catholics Sept 13 and throughout this political campaign:***

(1) Into the 09/13 special collection envelop, insert a note that you do not support the bishop's stance to deprive same-sex couples of the right to civil marriage. You could specify that your money is going to a charity that is inclusive of all families or to the *Vote No on 1* campaign. Then, to assure the diocese does not use future collections to fund its campaign, place a note instead of money in the first collection until after November 3. Donate to a charity that does not deny services based on a person's sexual orientation.

(2) C4ME has a petition for Maine Catholics to sign affirming that the Church can define marriage as it wishes for its members but that *marriage as a civil right is the prerogative of the state to define*. It is available as a PDF file. Please let me know if you would ask others in your parish to sign it. Signatures will be collected now through early October.

(3) Later this fall, the bishop is requiring priests to show a video he has made (instead of the homily) about overturning Maine's marriage equality law. Watch the list for suggested responses to that further political intrusion into our time of prayer and worship.

GIFT: For those who sign the petition, we have nifty, liturgical purple buttons or bumper stickers that read: *Catholics for Marriage Equality: God is Love*. Let me know how many you would like (please give only to folks who will display them proudly on coats, shirts, purses, tote bags, brief cases, etc.) and send me a snail address to mail them to you.

Thank you and peace be in each of us as we do this important work. Anne

