

Bangor Daily News, September 25, 2009

Vote no on 1

We received a letter from our bishop that said, “I am saddened and regret the fact that so many misunderstand the meaning of marriage.” I believe that many Catholics do understand the meaning of marriage for all and are also saddened and regret that their church leadership wants to be their conscience. The letter referred to “our brothers and sisters who identify themselves as homosexual.” That is a Galileo moment for the bishop, denying science. God identified them as homosexual. The cry that gay marriage will destroy traditional marriage is a mystery to me. You will sit a long time in divorce court waiting to hear a heterosexual couple say that their marriage fell apart because that lesbian couple across the street got married. We all know what destroys a marriage.

As Catholics, we have been admonished and intimidated by rhetoric from the pulpit and letters from the bishop with quotes from the pope, but we hold the card that trumps them all — the primacy of our conscience — taught by Thomas Aquinas and upheld by several popes. This long held doctrine of the church rarely makes its way out of theology 101 classrooms to the pulpit. I suggest that some Catholics may want to remember it when they go to the polls on Nov. 3 to Vote no on 1.

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