



THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA • PASTORAL OFFICE
LA DIÓCESIS DE YAKIMA • CENTRO PASTORAL

August 17, 2012

Dear Pastor,

Labor Day Weekend marks the beginning of Preserve Marriage Month, the official start to our educational program to inform parishioners about Catholic teaching on marriage and Referendum 74 (R-74), which would redefine marriage. R-74 will appear on the ballot in November. "With the other bishops of our state I will issue a statement reinforcing that marriage between one man and one woman is central to Catholic teaching."

I am asking you to **announce a special parishioner financial appeal** at each Mass on the weekend of August 25/26 or September 1/2 – whichever one you choose – to promote the September 8/9 in-pew collection for the *Preserve Marriage Washington* campaign. This important appeal will benefit the campaign to reject R-74.

1. Next week you will receive from Catholic Printery, whether they publish your bulletin or not, special envelopes and informational flyers for inclusion in your bulletin on the weekend you choose.
2. A security envelope addressed to *Preserve Marriage Washington* will also be included with the mailing. Please use it to return your donation envelopes.

The law in the State of Washington is very strict regarding the need to report the name of each individual donor who donates funds for an appeal of this kind. For that reason, it is important that envelopes identifying the donor be used in our parishes.

You may wish to include the following points in your pulpit announcement, the final bullet point is essential:

- In the bulletin this week you will find a flyer describing Referendum 74, which redefines marriage in the State of Washington.
- The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is the union of one man and one woman and that marriage makes an essential contribution to the common good of society.
- R-74 would redefine marriage to include two persons rather than a man and a woman.
- R-74 would grant no additional benefits to same sex couples, as Washington State already has a law granting same sex couples all of the rights associated with civil marriage.
- As faithful citizens, we need to be involved in the political process so that marriage as the essential building block of society is preserved.
- The Church does not engage in partisan politics, but it has an obligation to teach about moral values of the issues facing society.
- In addition to informing ourselves and others about R-74, we can contribute to the campaign by using the envelope in this week's bulletin to make a generous donation to *Preserve Marriage Washington*.
- These donations are not tax deductible.
- Each individual donor **must** provide the requested information on the envelope, including your name, and address. You may drop the envelope into the regular collection today or September 8/9, or mail it to *Preserve Marriage Washington* as indicated on the envelope.

Please Note: This is not a parish collection. Please be sure that parish staff knows that **these envelopes are NOT to be opened or recorded by the parish**. These donations cannot be recorded on parishioners' tithing record. **Please place unopened envelopes into the addressed security envelope**, and mail them to *Preserve Marriage Washington*.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

[signature electronically applied]