

# MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

## BULLETIN BLURB EXAMPLES

### JOIN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT MARRIAGE

Over the years and across cultures and very different religious beliefs, marriage has been and still is the foundation of the family. The family, in turn, is the basic unit of society. Thus, marriage is a personal relationship with public significance.

Courts in nearby states have redefined marriage as something other than a relationship between one man and one woman. Precisely because the family is the primary cell of human society we all must be involved in establishing the definition of marriage which reflects the values of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Legislature is considering SB 1250, which will amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and will prevent civil unions, which are in effect the same as marriage. Your state representative and state senator need to hear from you that marriage makes a difference. Log on to [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org) to send a message telling your legislators to support the marriage amendment, and check out [www.youranswer matters.org](http://www.youranswer matters.org) for more ideas about how you can get involved in the effort to protect and preserve marriage.



### MARRIAGE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Marriage is the intimate union and equal partnership of one man and one woman. It comes to us from the hand of God, who created male and female in his image, so that they might become one body and might be fertile and multiply (See Genesis chapters 1 & 2).

The protection of marriage is an affirmation of the fundamental benefits that traditional marriage has on society – the protection of the family, and in particular, children. Protecting marriage is a refusal to abandon an institution known to be beneficial.

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### PROTECTING MARRIAGE

Twenty-seven states have already amended their constitutions in order to define marriage as between one man and one woman. It is time for Pennsylvania to follow suit and give the people of this Commonwealth the opportunity to determine how they would like to define marriage.

Pennsylvania law already states that marriage is between one man and one woman, but in Iowa, a judge ruled their state's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional.

Pennsylvania cannot avoid this debate. Therefore, we must encourage the state legislature to allow voters to decide the fate of marriage before a judge determines it for us.

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### MARRIAGE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Permanency, exclusivity, and faithfulness are essential to marriage because they foster and protect the two equal purposes of marriage. These two purposes are growth in mutual love between the spouses (unitive) and the generation and education of children (procreative).

The family arises from marriage. Parents, children and family members form what is called a domestic church or church of the home. This is the primary unit of the Church – the place where the Church lives in the daily love, care, hospitality, sacrifice, forgiveness, prayer and faith of ordinary families. Marriage is a personal relationship with public significance.

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### PENNSYLVANIA MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

Senate Bill 1250 - the Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment – is being considered by the state legislature. The bill aims to make this amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution:

*No union other than a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage or the functional equivalent of marriage by the Commonwealth.*

Your state representative and state senator need to hear from you that marriage makes a difference. Visit, call, write a letter, or log on to [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org) to send a message telling your legislators to support the marriage amendment.