

D.C. ARCHDIOCESE REACTS TO GAY MARRIAGE

Starting on March 2, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington no longer extended health benefits to spouses of new employees and to the spouses of current employees not already receiving those benefits. Catholic Charities had to halt spousal health benefits lest it be sued for discriminating against homosexuals who were considered to be married in the District; a bill legalizing gay marriage had recently passed in the District. This decision by the Washington Archdiocese was driven by the marriage inequity activists who will brook no dissent in their crusade to ram their gay-marriage agenda down the throats of the faithful. They know full well that no Catholic entity would prostitute its own teachings merely to do business with the government. Nature, not the Catholic Church, was the first to ordain that it is biologically incongruous for a man and a man to conceive a child. That ability is wholly the reserve of a man and a woman, and no amount of social and legal fictions can alter it. This issue isn't about equality, it is about creating an inequitable condition—allowing people of the same sex the same rights afforded men and women—that will only disable the institution of marriage in the long run.

Not only did the Archdiocese of Washington have to restrict health care benefits, but it had to cut its foster-care program as well. At issue was the right of the archdiocese to reject gay marriage and remain a city contractor.

Archbishop Donald Wuerl is a man of principle and prudence: he did not want to end the foster-care program, but he was left with no realistic option. District lawmakers could have granted the kind of religious exemptions that would have ensured a continuation of services, but instead they sought to create a Catch-22 situation for the archdiocese. Surely they knew that Archbishop Wuerl was not going to negotiate Catholic Church teachings on marriage, yet that hardly mattered to them. The real losers are the children who were served by the

Catholic Church.

Those who said that Wuerl was throwing the kids overboard are phonies. If Planned Parenthood were told that as a condition of public funding it had to refer Catholic women having second thoughts about abortion to a crisis pregnancy center, it would scream violation of church and state, refuse the money and end this program. Well, Archbishop Wuerl wasn't about to allow the state to run roughshod over the doctrine of the Catholic Church, and that is why he was forced to drop the foster-care program.

Prudent lawmakers interested in balancing church and state interests and servicing children would not seek to impose secular views on sectarian institutions. But that's not what D.C. legislators opted to do, leaving Archbishop Wuerl with no realistic alternative.