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Walker Overreaches in Claiming Cal Voters Irrational

We were stunned that Judge Walker could find no rational reasons for maintaining marriage between a man and a woman when he overturned Prop 8 on Wednesday -- none. He concluded that motivation for voting in favor of Prop 8 could only be attributable to animus and discrimination against gays and lesbians. He may have overreached. While his decision is quite radical, after studying it, we found that it provides important insights into the false premises and assumptions that have led so many young people to abandon marriage, cohabitate, and have children outside of marriage.

Judge Walker gutted foundational principles of democracy by seeming to say that citizens have no right to organize civil society using common sense unless it can be supported by scientific or sociological evidence. He decided mothers and fathers did not matter for children because other people could do just as good of a job raising them. He came up with a whole new definition of marriage as merely a committed relationship for the private interests of adults. This confirms CCG's contention that the issue is really about the public interest of two conflicting definitions of marriage rather than personal behavior and alternative lifestyles.

We learned a number of key things from the decision, all of which have confirmed that the Stand with Children movement, with its training and formation program, is on the right track and critical for rebuilding a marriage culture starting with our own families. You can see more detail on this including comments from the lead defense counsel, and selected quotes from Walker's decision that paint a picture that will amaze at <http://ccgaction.org/node/848>.

The appeals process is already underway. Prop 8 lawyers have laid a good foundation for overturning Walker's decision at either the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals level or at the U.S. Supreme Court. It is going to be a long process.

The question in the interim is whether or not same-sex "marriages" will begin again. Walker ordered the state and counties to start issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, but Prop 8 Defense lawyers immediately asked for a stay of Walker's order pending appeal, a decision that would be good practice. The judge has requested written arguments from both sides by August 6, and has asked the clerk to delay implementing his order until he makes a decision.

If anything, overturning Prop 8 reinforces the danger for the future of our children and families. We face this daily but seem to forget about it until there is a crisis. Walker's decision, if allowed to stand, will end debate on the public interest of "traditional" marriage, wresting it completely from the hands of the voters (as is the case in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Iowa). We cannot let that happen. As Pope John Paul II, our patron, said, "it is not permissible for anyone to remain idle."

Last night, we had a conference call and detailed briefing discussing the decision with our California county co-chairs. We talked about the deluge of media inquiries today and next steps for the immediate future. Not one single thing in our strategy has changed.

Our approach refocuses us on the reality of marriage as part of God's plan for creation and makes issues related to sexual orientation and alternative life-style irrelevant. We are in solidarity with the common interest that every child has in the marriage of his or her mother and father.

As co-chairs watched coverage of today's events, they remarked, "I knew how to answer this question or respond to that issue. Why didn't anyone on TV seem to know?" They, and many other volunteers working with them in their counties, are beginning to understand the underlying causes of the confusion about

marriage, family and human sexuality that is perplexing so many of our children, friends and fellow parishioners. They no longer have that sense of isolation and helplessness that so many have been feeling.

Don't sit idly by and complain about the way things are and how your rights are being take away. If you care about the future of your family, religious liberty and the Church, I urge you to get involved and take action. Local teams are starting to meet monthly in many parts of the state. They will be participating in new trainings in the fall. Join the team now. See our website for the [schedule of events](#) taking place in your region. Additional emails will follow with invitations to join our Training and Formation Program. Take the energy you now feel and do something positive.

This has got to be a work of the Holy Spirit. Recognizing that, we have confidence. We are motivated. We are feeling strong. And, we have Our Lady of Guadalupe by our side.

Yours for the Common Good,

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