



# DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY

*June 27, 2015*

## Statement of the Bishop of Rapid City Supreme Court Ruling on Same Sex Marriage

### OFFICE OF BISHOP

A deeply divided United States Supreme Court has issued a tragic ruling for our country and its future by redefining marriage – forcing all states to license and recognize marriages between two persons of the same sex.

The Court has made a tragic error in its conclusion and this decision will not stop public dialogue; the debate will and must continue. This ruling does not and cannot change the true definition of marriage as defined by God from the beginning of time.

No one and no court can make what is false true. Marriage by its nature remains the union of one man and one woman. This is a matter of reason, not just faith. Man and woman were designed by God for each other, and only a man and a woman can form a union that brings forth children.

While it is still unclear regarding the sweeping ramifications of the Court's decision and its impact on people of faith, as the Church we will continue to strive to ensure that all of our pastoral practices are consistent with the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church.

In our continuance of fighting for religious freedoms, I also ask that we pray for family life and for all people to strengthen marriage. With renewed purpose we call upon all people of good will to promote and defend the unique meaning of marriage: one man, one woman, for life. It is important that we increase our efforts to strengthen marriages and families and rebuild a marriage culture that is beautiful and holy. We pray for all the future victims of this ruling, particularly children.

We also must reach out with love and support to all people, including those who experience same-sex attraction. All people are loved by God and are called to love Him.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us.

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Robert D. Gruss*

Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss  
Bishop of Rapid City