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May 10, 2006

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

Today there is a growing sense shared by many people, including a wide range of religious leaders, that a Marriage Protection Amendment is the only federal-level action that ultimately will protect and preserve the institution of marriage.

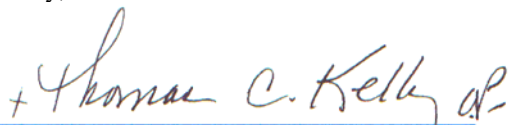
We have been informed that you will soon have the opportunity once again to stand publicly in support of marriage as the God-given union of a man and a woman. We understand that there is the likelihood that the Protection of Marriage Amendment (S. J. Res. 1) will be introduced in the Senate in early June with the amendment reading as follows:

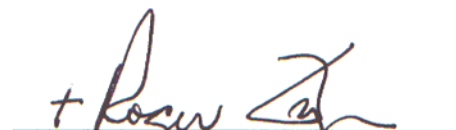
Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman.

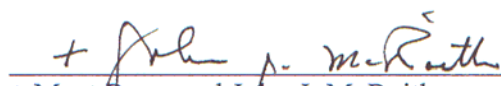
Married love is a gift of God to the human family and to His Church. It needs to be promoted, preserved, and protected now and for the future. In his first encyclical letter, *Deus caritas est*, Pope Benedict XVI places the highest value on love between a man and a woman "where body and soul are inseparably joined and human beings glimpse an apparently irresistible promise of happiness."


We appreciate your 2004 vote for the federal marriage amendment, S.J. Res. 40. We ask for your continued support of marriage and for its protection in society by your voting for the federal marriage amendment, S.J. Res. 1, when it is introduced and brought to the floor for a vote in early June.

Sincerely,


+ Most Reverend Thomas C. Kelly, O.P.
Archbishop of Louisville


+ Most Reverend Roger J. Foys
Bishop of Covington


+ Most Reverend John J. McRaith
Bishop of Owensboro


+ Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
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