WHO ARE MY BROTHERS?

[MATTHEW 12:48]

CATHOLIC BISHOPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Joseph Kurtz
Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky.; President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has maintained a hard line on LGBT issues. He has condemned the Supreme Court decision on marriage equality as “a tragic error that harms the common good and most vulnerable among us,” even voicing opposition to LGBT couples adopting children who are in need, saying, “Children do not need experiments.” Archbishop Kurtz’s interest in the common good, predictably, does not extend to same-sex couples, as “protection of same-sex conduct, it’s a threat to religious liberty.”

Salvatore Cordileone
Archdiocese of San Francisco, Calif.; Subcommittee for the Promotion & Defense of Marriage
Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone is a notorious opponent of LGBT people, characterizing same-sex orientation as “self-destructive” and gender identity as being “invented.” He has created a firestorm of criticism for adding morality clauses in the archdiocese’s new high school teacher handbook and has spoken out against LGBT employment non-discrimination. He is also a leader in a sanctioned ministry known as Courage that calls on LGBT people to chastity.

Thomas Wenski
Archdiocese of Miami, Fla.
Archbishop Thomas Wenski has long held reactionary positions on many issues affecting the LGBT community. From depriving people of adequate sex education by banning even the discussion of condoms by his archdiocese to calling the Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality “a recipe for tyranny,” Wenski doesn’t shy away from voicing his views on LGBT families. He has gone as far as to claim that same-sex marriage “impels the human flourishing of future generations.”

Thomas Tobin
Diocese of Providence, R.I.
Bishop Thomas Tobin has frequently decried marriage of same-sex couples as “morally wrong and a blatant rejection of God’s plan for the human family.” He has called on the Catholic Church to “redouble its commitment to proclaim and defend authentic concepts of marriage.” Bishop Tobin described the Supreme Court’s ruling for marriage equality as “overturning the natural law, well-founded religious tradition, and universal human experience,” claiming that it posed a threat to “the religious freedom of millions of Americans.”

Carl Kemme
Diocese of Wichita, Kan.
Bishop Carl Kemme, handicapped by Pope Francis to lead the Diocese of Wichita, is an opponent of marriage for same-sex couples, often softening his rhetoric to a philosophy of “love the sinner, hate the sin.” But don’t be fooled. He is the chaplain of Courage, an international organization of the Catholic Church, which emphasizes the Church’s opposition to marriage equality, its concern for the “welfare of children” raised by same-sex couples and the need for chastity by those who have same-sex desires.

Charles Chaput
Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Pa.; Host of Pope Francis
Archbishop Charles Chaput has not only been a vocal opponent of marriage equality, but has sharply invited a Catholic LGBT organization from meeting at a Catholic church during the Pope’s visit to the World Meeting of Families — and is attempting to put prominent “conversion therapists” on stage beside the Pope at a public event. Archbishop Chaput has been at the forefront of efforts to purge LGBT and allied Catholics in Catholic-affiliated institutions. Even the Archbishop’s basic moral convictions cannot recognize the complications and controversy in the firings, explaining, “It’s a simple matter of honesty.”

Dennis Schnurr
Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio
Archbishop Dennis Schnurr is an outspoken opponent of marriage equality. In response to the recent Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, he said, “Traditional marriage is the cradle of the family, the basic building block of society […]. The crisis in traditional marriage does not make it any less important. It is deeply disappointing and worrying that our courts do not understand this.”

Thomas Paprocki
Diocese of Springfield, Ill.
Bishop Thomas Paprocki, who infamously held an exorcism “in reparation” for Illinois’ new marriage equality law, is no stranger to controversy. When a same-sex married couple tried to enroll their children at a Catholic elementary school, Bishop Paprocki responded with the “Family School Agreement,” a school policy that would require parents, adoptive parents or legal guardians of children in Catholic schools to adhere to church teaching.

William Lori
Archdiocese of Baltimore, Md.
Archbishop William Lori greeted the passage of marriage equality nationally by seeking to spread fear among Catholics that Justice Kennedy’s opinion in Obergefell v. Hodges “does not recognize the right of churches and conscientious individuals to act on what they believe.” This opposition has intersected with Bishop Lori’s work on redefining religious freedom to include the right to discriminate, and he gave the homily at the opening mass for the recent Fortnight for Religious Freedom. Lori also signed a letter to U.S. senators in 2013 opposing ENDA.

Rosary vigils will be held in these cities to raise the voices of LGBT Catholics. Praying of the rosary events to distribute information will be followed by community discussion of condoms by his archdiocese to calling the Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality "a recipe for tyranny," Wenski doesn’t shy away from voicing his views on LGBT families. He has gone as far as to claim that same-sex marriage “impels the human flourishing of future generations.”