

More on history of marriage

I regret I was not able to attend the "Gay 'Marriage' Debate" reported in the Oct. 12 Daily Beacon story by Jamie Greig ("Speakers debate same sex marriage in UC"). It seems Dr. Lynn Sacco, associate professor of history, also did not attend ("Letter" Oct. 13). I offer the following historical texts, which although they only date within the last generation, have roots which pre-date by more than a millennia the colonial founding of our nation. Hopefully they will not be foreign to a history seminar which includes the history of marriage. While I am sure that there are other clergymen who could address this issue with greater clarity I will leave it to the accompanying texts. Dr. Sacco surely knows that the "marriage laws" of the Church most surely do address the procreation and education of children, even if the current Code effects primarily those who are in full communion with the Bishop of Rome.

Code of Canon Law (1983)

Canon. 1055 § 1. The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized.

§ 2. For this reason, a valid matrimonial contract cannot exist between the baptized without it being by that fact a sacrament.

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_P3V.HTM (Cited on Oct. 13, 2011)

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1992)

1660 — The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love, has been founded and endowed with its own special laws by the Creator. By its very nature it is ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children. Christ the Lord raised marriage between the baptized to the dignity of a sacrament (cf. CIC, can. 1055 # 1; cf. GS 48 # 1).

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_P57.HTM (Cited on Oct. 13, 2011)

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