

June 27, 2017

Dear Bishop Paprocki,

As communities of Catholics, we were shocked and gravely disappointed at the decree you recently promulgated denying Communion and Funeral Rites for same sex spouses.

Our nation is currently divided, and our politics turn more acrimonious by the day. In such times, many turn to the Church for comfort, love, respect and compassion. The Church, at its best, is a haven, a source of spiritual nourishment in a sometimes harsh world. In times of confusion, loss and grief, the Sacraments are especially valued for the strength and grace they provide to all who wish to avail themselves of them.

It is disheartening to us as Catholics that our family would forego such cherished ideals in favor of mean and unkind policies. LGBTQ individuals and their families deserve love, prayers, and compassion, not condemnation and rejection. Our Catholicism calls for us to honor the humanity in each other, to be unapologetic in our love towards one another, and to share the fruits of the sacraments.

As Catholics, we decry the rancor and derision that has become such a pervasive part of public life and community. We expect our Church, that place where we have sought refuge during crises and celebrated during successes, to rise above that animus. We ask that you rescind the recent Same Sex Marriage Policies Decree. The world needs less bitterness and more love. We want our Church to help lead in that direction.

Sincerely,

A Critical Mass

Call To Action

Catholics for Choice

Catholics for Choice Canada

Chicago Women-Church

The Community In Discernment, Ecumenical Catholic Church Boulder, Colorado

CORPUS

DignityUSA

8th Day Justice Center

Greater Cincinnati Women-Church

National Coalition of American Nuns

New Ways Ministry

RAPPORT

Roman Catholic Women Priests USA Action Network

Southeastern Pennsylvania Women's Ordination Conference

Voice of the Faithful New Jersey

Women's Alliance for Ethics, Theology and Ritual (WATER)

Women's Ordination Conference