



## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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### **Diocese of Rockville Centre Statement Regarding the United States Supreme Court's Recent Decision Redefining the Term "Sex" in Civil Rights Law**

On Monday, June 15, 2020, the United States Supreme Court handed down a ruling that the prohibition on "sex" discrimination in employment in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 now prohibits discrimination based on "sexual orientation" and "transgender" status.

The President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, immediately issued a statement on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of the country regarding this decision. Bishop John O. Barres, Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre said: "Archbishop's Gomez's statement is a very clear summary of the Catholic Church's teaching regarding the inability of secular authorities to redefine the meaning of the term 'sex' in law." <http://www.usccb.org/news/2020/20-93.cfm>

It should be noted that the Catholic Church felt so strongly about this issue that, in August of last year, the USCCB joined other national religious organizations in filing *amicus curiae* briefs in the cases before the Court.

Catholic teaching always distinguishes between the person and acts that the person does. The Church teaches that every person, from the very first moment of life and being made in the image and likeness of God, is therefore entitled to dignity and respect. However, the Church cannot agree with the redefinition of basic truths of human nature, which are both integral parts of God's plan for humanity and foundational elements of society as well. Among these truths is the recognition that God has created us male and female (Genesis 1:27 and Matthew 19:4).

The Church is also concerned that this ruling sets in motion a future conflict between this new "right" and the Constitutional right to Freedom of Religion as set forth in the First Amendment. The "first right" enumerated in the Bill of Rights is that of religious liberty: that the government should neither establish a religion nor prohibit the free exercise of religion. This First Amendment right must guarantee that all religious institutions are able to hire people who believe in the tenets of that religion and who live according to its teachings. The Catholic Church will always stand in defense of religious liberty and in defense of the dignity of the human person.

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