

MOST REV. DANIEL R. JENKY, C.S.C.
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February 6, 2013

To all Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Peoria:

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The sanctity and dignity of Marriage is under attack, and I am calling upon you, the Catholic faithful, to stand beside me in this important mission to defend, protect and uphold the institution of Marriage. This February, our state's elected officials will be voting on a bill called "The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act." If passed, this bill will actively seek to redefine marriage, resulting in detrimental repercussions to traditional marriage, religious liberty, parental rights and society as a whole. As Christians, we know that the institution of Marriage was created by God Himself, and that He alone defines its nature. For 2000 years, the Catholic Church has passionately defended the doctrines of Jesus Christ. It is now our time, as the faithful of the Diocese of Peoria, to take a public stand to protect and uphold the sanctity and dignity of Marriage.

Please stand with me in making our Catholic presence boldly known and heard at the upcoming Marriage Lobby Day at the State Capitol Rotunda in Springfield, IL, on Wednesday, Feb. 20th at 10:30 a.m. I urge you to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us. I encourage you to carpool or caravan together to Springfield. We've also made available a diocesan chartered bus, which we hope to fill. Please see the attached fliers, which contain bus registration information and additional details for the day.

We can no longer sit silently, but rather, we must stand together in solidarity. Grab your rosaries, and in the prayerful spirit of pilgrimage, please join me on Feb. 20th. I look forward to sharing in this all important mission with you, as we together defend Marriage, and witness to the Faith, Hope and Love that is alone found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel R. Jenky C.S.C." with a stylized flourish at the end.

✠Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.
BISHOP OF PEORIA