



Federal Marriage Amendment Postcard Project

**Send Postcards to U.S. Senators and Congressional Representatives
As Soon As Possible**

Judges Overruling the Will of the People

The U.S. Congress and 38 states have passed laws to protect marriage between a man and a woman. These laws recognize that marriage and natural families serve the common good and are the foundation of our society.

Courts are starting to declare these laws unconstitutional. Contrary to the will of the people, a one-judge majority on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has made same-sex marriage legal in that state beginning May 17, 2004. The only way to protect marriage between a man and a woman and to preserve our democracy is to put the will of the people in the U.S. Constitution by adopting what would be the 28th Amendment. The last time the constitution was amended was in 1992 and dealt with congressional salaries.

The Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) has been introduced in Congress and hearings are being held in each house. **The U.S. Bishops support the FMA.** Congressional votes are expected during the summer and could come at any time. Opposition is strong and well organized. It is important that both of your U.S. senators and your congressional representative hear from constituents as soon as possible.

Post cards are an effective way of communicating with members of Congress. Members of Congress will respond to them. Large numbers of signed postcards can be collected when presented to audiences of varying sizes at Mass and at meetings of clubs and organizations. If people are asked to fill out postcards on Church property, **always work with the pastor and seek his permission.**¹

Postcard Project Instructions

1. Print postcards with the supportive message on the back and the address for the members of Congress on the front. Go to http://www.yourcatholicvoice.org/files/fma_postcards.doc and download 2 sets of sample postcards.
 - a. On one set, fill in the names and addresses of your state's two senators. Print copies.
 - b. On the second set, leave the address blank. (Congressional districts vary for individuals. Therefore, each signatory should write the name of their congressional representative on the address side of a blank card.) Note: The leader of this project should guide participants in identifying their Congressional Representative.
 - c. Have individuals sign each postcard for a total of 3 – 2 U.S. Senators and 1 Congressional Rep.
2. Collect cards when they are completed. (This will insure that they are sent.)
3. Sort the cards and send together in a box or large envelope to the offices of the addressees. This will save cost for mailing. (They do not need to be mailed individually.)

Important Additional Projects:

1. **FMA Petitions:** Ask supporters to sign petitions in favor of the FMA as well. This will enable an impressive display of support when all of the signatures are delivered to Congress and it will enable YCV to personally keep signatories informed of developments. You can download paper petitions for signature at http://www.yourcatholicvoice.org/pdf/fma_petition.pdf. Collect signatures using a card table in front of your church or at events and meetings (always seek your pastors approval first). Input the data collected with paper petitions into the Excel spreadsheet found at http://www.yourcatholicvoice.org/files/fma_petition.xls and send it to leaders@yourcatholicvoice.org.
2. **Voter Registration:** While collecting signatures on petitions, it is an excellent time to register people to vote. This is a non-partisan activity that is also permissible on Church property with your pastors' permission.² Please contact your county registrar of voters for information on registering voters.

¹ A limited amount of advocacy on legislation (grassroots lobbying) is permissible on Church property. See U.S. Bishops' guidelines. <http://www.usccb.org/ogc/guidelines.htm#2> <http://www.usccb.org/ogc/guidelines.htm#5>

² See U.S. Bishops' guidelines. <http://www.usccb.org/ogc/guidelines.htm#46>