



CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE of Massachusetts
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NEWS RELEASE

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CONDEMNS PETA FOR STATUE MOCKING CHRIST AND THE POPE

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today condemned People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals for displaying in front of Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston a statue mocking the pope and the crucifixion of Our Lord. The statue is a ten foot figure of a cow clad in papal vestments holding a cross bearing the crucified image of a smaller cow. The figure was paraded in front of the cathedral on Tuesday of Holy Week, the most solemn time of the liturgical year, when Catholics commemorate the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. A spokesman for PETA said Boston was deliberately targeted because "of its large Catholic population."

The Catholic Action League described the incident as "a vile, disgusting, and calculated act of contempt, blasphemy and sacrilege, intended to provoke, inflame, and outrage Catholics."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: "PETA is a lunatic hate group masquerading as a bunch of animal lovers. It should be apparent to anyone by now that the leadership of this organization has a depraved obsession with the Catholic religion. Protecting animals takes a back seat to insulting Catholics. Only bigots animated by hate would parade what looks like a pagan idol in front of a Catholic cathedral during Holy Week."

"When it comes to Catholic-bashing, PETA is an incorrigible recidivist. It has a long history of expropriating, exploiting, and demeaning Catholic symbols as a means of gaining publicity and raising money. Its tactics are shabby, tawdry, and cynical. Catholics are beginning to ask why Boston Mayor Thomas Menino continues to allow the front of Holy Cross Cathedral to be turned into a circus by every radical fringe group with an axe to grind against the Catholic Church. One wonders when the beleaguered parishioners of Holy Cross will finally be able to worship in peace."



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NEWS RELEASE

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE DIRECTOR PETITIONS SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT FOR STAY IN *GOODRIDGE*

C. J. Doyle, Executive Director of Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, today petitioned the Supreme Judicial Court to further delay implementation of its controversial ruling in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, which mandated legal recognition of same-gender marriage in the Commonwealth. Doyle is asking the court for an extension of the stay of entry of judgment pending the outcome of the process to amend the state constitution.

On March 29th the Legislature, meeting in joint constitutional convention, gave preliminary approval to a proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-gender marriage while establishing civil unions. If approved by the next Legislature, the measure will be placed on the ballot to be voted on by the people in November of 2006.

Doyle is being represented by Attorney Chester Darling of Citizens for the Preservation of Constitutional Rights, and by the Thomas More Law Center. Darling is best remembered for his 9-0 Supreme Court victory in Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade case.

C. J. Doyle made the following comment: "As a citizen and as a registered voter in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am asking the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court to allow the democratic process to run its course and to permit the people and their elected representatives to vote on this matter of fundamental importance to the future of society. Implementing *Goodridge* before the issue is decided by majority rule would place proponents of traditional marriage in the invidious position of rolling back an existing right, and erecting, much to their disfavor, a daunting and, perhaps insurmountable, political barrier. Let the people make their decision unencumbered by the ruling of the court."



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NEWS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY MAY 12, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE V.P. PETITIONS FEDERAL COURT TO STOP *GOODRIDGE*

A hearing was held today in the United States District Court in Boston on the petition of Robert P. Largess, Vice-President of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, requesting a temporary restraining order, and a preliminary and permanent injunction, blocking implementation of *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court decision legalizing same gender marriage in the Bay State.

Largess is claiming that the SJC's decision to arrogate to itself the right to effectively legislate a redefinition of marriage violates Article IV, Section 4 of the U. S. Constitution, which guarantees each state a republican form of government. Largess is being represented by Atty. Matthew Staver of the Liberty Council, and Atty. Chester Darling of Boston, who is best remembered for his 9 to 0 victory before the U.S. Supreme Court in Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade case.

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle made the following comment:
"By legislating from the bench, the four justices of the Supreme Judicial Court who voted for *Goodridge* abused their office, violated their oath, made a mockery of the separation of powers, and usurped the right of the people and their elected representatives to govern. Overturning thousands of years of moral and legal tradition defining marriage extends far beyond the accepted parameters of judicial interpretation. We cannot credibly claim to live in a democracy when our most fundamental laws can be overturned, and our most vital institutions deconstructed, by four unelected political patronage appointees cloaked with the sanctity of lifetime tenure."



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NEWS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CALLS ON ROMNEY FOR CONSCIENCE CLAUSE

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today called on Governor Mitt Romney to issue an executive order providing a conscience clause protecting those municipal clerks, justices of the peace, and other public officials whose moral and religious beliefs preclude them from collaborating in same-sex marriage. Nearly a dozen justices of the peace have already resigned, while press reports indicate that the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination is prepared to institute civil enforcement proceedings and impose fines against those public officials who follow their consciences in this matter.

The Catholic Action League is characterizing its call for a conscience clause as “a necessary protection for religious freedom in the revolutionary environment established by *Goodridge*.”

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle, in his letter to Governor Romney, wrote the following: “The protections afforded by the Free Exercise clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution of the U. S. Constitution and by Article II of the Declaration of Rights of the Massachusetts Constitution should warrant that a reasonable accommodation be made for those office holders morally opposed to same-sex marriage. There is no compelling state interest which requires all individual clerks and Justices of the Peace to participate in the implementation of *Goodridge*. To require them to do so would have the effect of creating an unlawful religious test for public office.”

“I urge you, therefore, pending legislative action on this matter, to issue an Executive Order providing a conscience clause which would secure the religious freedom rights of municipal clerks, Justices of the Peace, and other public officials who wish to adhere to their moral convictions. In a free society, no public office holder should be required to forfeit his position, or expose himself to civil penalties, as a condition of remaining true to his religious beliefs.”



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NEWS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE DENOUNCES MASSACHUSETTS SENATE ON EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION BILL

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today denounced the Massachusetts State Senate for its passage of the so-called Emergency Contraception Bill. The measure was gavelled through this afternoon on a voice vote without any objections. If enacted, this proposed law would coerce Catholic hospitals and Catholic medical professionals into performing chemical abortions by forcing them to dispense the abortifacient morning-after pill.

The Catholic Action League characterized the measure as “a heavy handed aggression against the consciences and the constitutional rights of Catholics.”

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: “This proposed legislation, if it becomes law, will force Catholic doctors, nurses, pharmacists and medical personnel to choose between violating their consciences or forfeiting their jobs. Catholic medical institutions will be presented with the choice of costly litigation to contest this measure, non-compliance, which is to say civil disobedience, or closure. The Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental provider of health care services in the United States. If the Catholic Church is forced out of the health care industry, an oppressive burden would be imposed on the already strained health care system in the Commonwealth, which ultimately would have to be borne by the taxpayers.”

“The free exercise of religion is guaranteed by both the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and even more broadly, by Article II of the Declaration of Rights of the Massachusetts Constitution. The jurisprudence of both the United States and the Commonwealth have long held that the exercise of religion consists not only of the liberty to worship, but the right to act in accordance with one’s religious principles. At a time when society professes to celebrate the values of tolerance, pluralism, and diversity, it is astonishing that such an illiberal, authoritarian, and constitutionally defective proposal is being contemplated against Catholics.”

“The fact that not a single nominal Catholic or alleged pro-life member of the Senate rose to oppose this bill speaks volumes about the cowardice, corruption, and apostasy of the Roman Catholic political class, who are more concerned about prolonging their careers than protecting the religious liberty of their Catholic constituents.”



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NEWS RELEASE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CRITICIZES **U.S. SUPREME COURT FOR FAILURE TO HEAR** **CHALLENGE TO *GOODRIDGE* DECISION**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today criticized the U.S. Supreme Court for its refusal this morning to hear a challenge brought by League Vice-President Robert P. Largess to the *Goodridge* decision, which legalized same-gender marriage in the Commonwealth. The League argued that the decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court violated the republican guarantee clause of the U.S. Constitution by depriving the people of Massachusetts, and their elected representatives, of the opportunity to vote on the issue of homosexual marriage. The League was represented by the Liberty Counsel and Attorney Chester Darling.

The Catholic Action League called the Supreme Court's refusal "a regrettable failure to redress the usurpation of democratic self-government by the Massachusetts SJC."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: "Today's event underscores the need for Supreme Court justices committed to a strict construction of the Constitution, who will restrain the activist impulses of ideologues on the bench. This country cannot credibly claim to be a democracy when our most vital institutions can be deconstructed and our most fundamental laws overturned by a handful of unelected political patronage appointees cloaked with the sanctity of lifetime tenure. The results of referenda in eleven states of the Union on election day clearly indicate that this issue must be removed from the jurisdiction of an unaccountable judiciary and placed squarely in the hands of the people, where it belongs."