

## **NEWS RELEASE**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C.J. DOYLE

(617) 524-6309

### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE HAILS DEFEAT OF BILL TO OVERSEE CHURCH FINANCES**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today applauded the overwhelming defeat by the House of Representatives of Senate Bill 1074, AN ACT RELATIVE TO PUBLIC CHARITIES, which would have forced all churches and religious organizations in the Commonwealth to file detailed financial and property disclosure reports with the Public Charities Division of the Attorney General's Office.

The proposed law, which was sponsored by Senator Marian Walsh (D-Boston), had been endorsed by such dissident anti-clerical groups as Voice of the Faithful and the Council of Parishes.

The League called today's vote by the House of Representatives "a victory for religious freedom, and a defeat for activist groups which sought to use the power of the state to impose their agenda on the Roman Catholic Church".

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "Had it become law, this burdensome and unwarranted measure would have eroded the separation of church and state, and reduced religious bodies in the Commonwealth to the generic status of mere public charities, diminishing the unique character and special protections afforded them by the guarantees of the United States and Massachusetts constitutions. That would have meant that the government, in the form of the Attorney General's Office, would have been empowered with a license to intrude in to and scrutinize the fundraising, financial management, and even the administrative decisions of churches."

"It was this very potential to impede episcopal authority which appealed to groups of disaffected Catholics, who are seeking congregational control of church finances and administration, and were, unconscionably, prepared to use the legislature to accomplish their goals."

## **NEWS RELEASE**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C.J. DOYLE

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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE SUPPORTS RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FOR ADOPTIONS**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today welcomed the decision of the state's Catholic bishops to seek a religious exemption for Catholic Charities in the matter of homosexual adoptions. Last October, it was revealed that Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston, in contravention of Catholic teaching, had placed more than a dozen foster children in the homes of same-sex couples, prompting a letter from the Papal Nuncio in Washington to Boston Archbishop Sean O'Malley urging that the practice be discontinued. *The Boston Globe* reported today that the bishops would seek a conscience clause exemption from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulation requiring non-discrimination, based on sexual orientation, in adoptions.

The League is supporting the bishops' decision, stating that "no religious organization should be forced to violate its fundamental moral principles as a condition of performing a social service."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle made the following comment: "In the constitutional traditions of both the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, recently reaffirmed in the *Desilets* case, freedom of religion has been understood to guarantee not only the liberty to worship, but the right to act in accordance with one's religiously formed conscience. The Commonwealth would have the substantial burden of demonstrating a compelling state interest in order to coerce Catholic Charities to act against Catholic teaching. As the Department of Early Education, which oversees adoptions, has already made a reasonable accommodation to Christian Scientists in the matter of vaccinations, it would be difficult to refuse such an accommodation to Catholics."

"Catholic Charities should immediately cease placing children in homosexual households and let the Commonwealth undertake the burden of litigation in the civil enforcement of its regulations. In the meantime, if the board of directors of Catholic Charities is unwilling to support Catholic morality, then they ought to be replaced by believing Catholics who are willing and able to publicly defend the Faith."

## **NEWS RELEASE**

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C.J. DOYLE

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### **LEAGUE SUPPORTS BISHOPS, HAILS RESIGNATIONS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today reaffirmed its support of the state's Catholic bishops, who are seeking a religious exemption for Catholic Charities in the matter of homosexual adoptions, and applauded the decision of seven dissenting members of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities to resign in protest over the bishops' determination to uphold Catholic moral teaching. Last October, it was revealed that Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston had placed more than a dozen foster children in the homes of same-sex couples, prompting a letter from the Papal Nuncio in Washington to Boston Archbishop Sean O'Malley urging that the practice be discontinued. Yesterday, Cardinal-designate O'Malley met with Governor Mitt Romney to discuss a conscience clause exemption from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulation requiring non-discrimination in adoptions based on sexual orientation.

The League called the resignations of seven prominent business and media figures from the Catholic Charities board "a welcome and long overdue departure by individuals who never should have been appointed in the first place."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle made the following comment: "Catholic Charities needs board members who are believing Catholics, willing to defend the Faith, not nominal Catholics who espouse Unitarian values. Yesterday's resignations remind us that many prosperous and prominent Catholics in Massachusetts are little more than assimilated bourgeois cultural conformists, who are subservient to elite opinion, embrace secular ideologies over Catholic principles, and are afraid to challenge dominant social norms. At least one of those who resigned, Catholic Charities former board chairman Peter Meade, has a long history of making substantial campaign contributions to politicians who support legal abortion. How someone who collaborated in what the late Pope John Paul II called the culture of death ended up presiding over the board of trustees of a Catholic organization is as astonishing as it is offensive. Catholic Charities is better off without them."

## **NEWS RELEASE**

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2006  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE URGES SPEEDY PASSAGE OF MARRIAGE AMENDMENT**

At a public hearing today in the State House, the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts urged members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary to give a favorable report to a proposed constitutional amendment which would define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The initiative petition for this amendment gained the signatures of more than 170,000 Bay State voters, more than any other in the history of the Commonwealth. If it is to go on the ballot in 2008, it must receive the support of at least one quarter of the state's legislators, meeting in joint constitutional convention, by the end of July of this year.

The Catholic Action League told members of the committee: "The credibility of Massachusetts as a democratic polity is at stake."

In written testimony submitted to the committee, Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "Such a fundamental matter of law, public policy and social order ought to be decided by the people, not by a handful unelected judges insulated by the cloak of career-long tenure. In supporting this amendment, members of the House and Senate would vindicate their own authority against a judicial branch which has legislated from the bench and which has demonstrated a callous indifference towards its usurpation of the right of the people and their elected representatives to govern."

"If the legislature fails to bring this matter before the voters, not only will the rights of the people be denied, but the integrity of the General Court itself will be impaired, raising inevitable questions about whether it is an institution which represents the will of the people, or is merely an auction house for the most powerful and well-funded special interests."

The Catholic Action League is a member of the Coalition for Marriage. League Executive Director C.J. Doyle was one of the original ten signatories of the initiative petition.



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE

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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE JOINS ROSARY OF REPARATION IN RESPONSE TO *DA VINCI CODE***

On Friday evening, May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts joined with other Catholic groups, including America Needs Fatima, Tradition Family & Property, the St. Benedict Center, and OR Boston to pray the rosary in public reparation for the opening of *The Da Vinci Code* in Boston. More than 75 people gathered on historic Boston Common, across from the Loews Theatre on Tremont Street to pray, sing hymns, and hold signs denouncing the film.

The Catholic Action League has called both the book and the film “a vile and blasphemous fable, concocted by a loathsome bigot out of malicious falsehoods, multiple fabrications, and manifest absurdities.”

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: “*The Da Vinci Code* demeans and insults Our Lord, sacrilegiously exploits the persons of Our Lord and Saint Mary Magdelene for commercial profit, and scurrilously slanders the Catholic religion as a malevolent fraud, sustained by murder in the service of lies. It also denigrates an esteemed Catholic organization, Opus Dei, as a cabal of fanatics impelled to assassination to conceal a cover-up. The movie appeals to the latent anti-Catholic prejudice of the American people, and will give comfort to bigots who will feel vindicated by its counterfeit assertions. Dan Brown’s story is a depraved hoax, pretending erudition so as to better prey upon the ignorant.”

“Since liberal democracy has failed to prevent this outrage, our only weapons are spiritual and economic. No Catholic should subsidize or enrich an individual or corporation which despises and defames us, and which blasphemes Our Lord and maligns our Holy Mother the Church. Not only should Catholics boycott the book and the movie, but they should never purchase another product manufactured by the Sony Corporation, or pay to see another movie by Ron Howard or Tom Hanks.”



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE

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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE DENOUNCES COALITION'S ATTACK ON CATHOLIC CIVIL RIGHTS**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today denounced a group of same-sex marriage advocates for their attack on the civil rights of Catholics. In a press conference this morning in Boston, the Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry released an open letter claiming that Catholic opposition to same-gender marriage violates the separation of church and state, and constitutes religious discrimination.

The Catholic Action League called the letter "a cynical and scurrilous attempt to muddy the issue by appealing to latent anti-Catholic prejudice."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: "It is a measure of the desperation of same-sex marriage proponents that they would recycle the tawdry, nativist tactics of the old National Abortion Rights Action League, which sought to stigmatize all opposition to abortion as an effort by the Catholic hierarchy to impose its sectarian morality on pluralist America. Today's charges by this left-wing coalition are equally sordid, malicious, and dishonest. Support for traditional marriage crosses the religious spectrum from Evangelicals and Pentecostals to Orthodox Jews and Eastern Orthodox Christians, from Muslims and Mormons to traditional Anglicans, conservative Protestants, and faithful Roman Catholics."

"Catholic leaders, like other American citizens, enjoy constitutional protections to freedom of speech and to the right to petition the government for the redress of grievances. Today's letter by the coalition is an attempt to demonize Catholic bishops, deprive them of their rights, and intimidate them into silence with spurious charges. This letter has nothing to do with the merits of the argument, and everything to do with inciting and exploiting anti-Catholic bigotry. Apparently, homosexual activists and their supporters have a difficult time tolerating diversity when it comes to differing opinions about the moral legitimacy of their sexual behavior."

"Marriage is not only a sacrament, but a legal institution with legal rights and obligations. As the basis for our social order, marriage concerns the common good. This attempt to silence the opposition makes a mockery of homosexual claims that religious believers have nothing to fear from the legalization of same-sex marriage."



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C. J. DOYLE

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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CRITICIZES STATEMENT BY CORPORATE ELITES ENDORSING GAY MARRIAGE CALLS FOR THEIR REMOVAL FROM CATHOLIC BOARDS**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today criticized the statement by 165 prominent Bay State capitalists and others opposing a constitutional amendment to prohibit homosexual marriage. The League also called for the removal of any signatories from the boards of Catholic institutions. The statement, published in this morning's *Boston Globe*, asserts that the Legislature should reject the amendment and "move on to other important issues like strengthening the economy, improving our schools and protecting our neighborhoods."

The Catholic Action League called the statement "a compelling example of the selfishness, parochialism, and moral imbecility of the Commonwealth's corporate elites."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: "One marvels at the brazen effrontery of the leadership of the Patriots and the Red Sox, both of whom have gone to the Legislature seeking special interest handouts from the taxpayers, now complaining that the General Court has more important issues to worry about than the definition of marriage, the bedrock institution of our social order. When members of the Massachusetts plutocracy talk about 'strengthening the economy' what they really mean is that the Legislature should stay focused on giving them subsidies, targeted tax cuts, and government infrastructure money. Still, one appreciates their dilemma. After all, if our elected representatives started voting on the basis of moral principles, it might become more difficult for our economic oligarchs to buy them off with campaign contributions, junkets, and free tickets to Fenway."

"If the Catholic Church and the Catholic community are serious about protecting traditional marriage, they should immediately remove any statement signatories from the boards of Catholic charitable and educational institutions, as they have publicly declared their opposition to Catholic teaching and Christian morality. Patriots owner Bob Kraft is a trustee of Boston College and former U.S. Attorney Wayne Budd is an associate trustee. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino is a member of the Laboure Center's campaign committee, while Tufts Health Plan CEO James Roosevelt, Jr. is a trustee of Emmanuel College. If they don't have the integrity to resign, the Church ought to have the courage to fire them."



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C.J. DOYLE

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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CONDEMNS LEGISLATURE FOR DODGING MARRIAGE VOTE**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today condemned the Bay State's Legislature for its decision to recess the joint Constitutional Convention until November 9<sup>th</sup> without acting upon the initiative petition amendment to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. This proposed amendment must receive the support of at least one quarter of the two hundred members of the Constitutional Convention before the current legislative term expires at the end of the year, and must be approved a second time in either 2007 or early in 2008, in order to go on the ballot for ratification by the people in November 2008. The Legislature's inaction defied the convictions of the more than 170,000 voters who signed the initiative petition, the largest number of signatures collected in the history of the Commonwealth.

The Catholic Action League called the recess "a shameful example of cowardice, and of contumacious contempt for the electorate, the Constitution, and the democratic process."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "The credibility of Massachusetts as a democratic polity is at stake. If the Legislature fails to bring this matter, so crucial to the future of society, to a vote, then not only will the rights of the people be denied and the clear provisions of the Constitution disregarded, but the integrity of the General Court itself will be shattered, raising inevitable questions about whether it is an institution which represents the citizens of the Commonwealth, or is merely an auction house for the most powerful and well-funded special interests."

The Catholic Action League is a member of the Coalition for Marriage. League Executive Director C. J. Doyle was one of the original ten signatories of the initiative petition.





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## **NEWS RELEASE**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
CONTACT: C.J. DOYLE  
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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE MOURNS DEATH OF GOVERNOR EDWARD J. KING**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today is mourning the loss of one of its founding board members, former Massachusetts Governor Edward J. King, who died this morning at the age of eighty one. Born in East Boston, and a longtime resident of the Town of Winthrop, King was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a graduate of Boston College. Ed King served as Comptroller, Secretary-Treasurer, and from 1963 to 1974 as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Port Authority, before becoming President of the New England Council in 1975. In September 1978, King unseated incumbent Governor Michael S. Dukakis in the Bay State's Democratic primary and went on to defeat Republican House Minority Leader Frank Hatch in the November general election. Ed King served as Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 1979 to 1983.

The Catholic Action League remembered King as "the last champion of Catholic values and populist principles to hold state-wide office in Massachusetts."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "Governor Ed King was a man of unyielding courage, a public official of unimpeachable integrity, and a Christian of unwavering fidelity to his religion and its moral code. An authentic Catholic, King was resolutely dedicated to defending the sanctity and dignity of innocent human life. His administration was a model of probity, fiscal responsibility, sound management, and respect for traditional morality. One of his greatest accomplishments, and one that disproportionately benefited minorities, the working class, and the urban poor was his introduction of mandatory minimum sentences for various classes of criminals, which was a significant factor in helping Boston overcome the epidemic of street crime which plagued inner-city residents in the 1960's and the 1970's."

Governor Edward J. King has been a member of the Board of Advisers of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts since 1995, and was the recipient of the John W. McCormack Award for Public Service.



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C.J. DOYLE

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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CONDEMNS LEGISLATURE FOR SHAM VOTE ON MARRIAGE**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today condemned the Bay State's Legislature for its bait and switch tactic on the question of homosexual marriage. Rather than do what was required by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, which would have been to vote on an initiative petition amendment prohibiting same-gender marriage, the General Court, meeting in joint Constitutional Convention, resurrected a long dormant legislative amendment against same-sex marriage only to quickly vote it down.

The Convention then recessed until January 2<sup>nd</sup> without taking up the initiative petition, which had been signed by 170,000 registered voters, allowing members of the Legislature to claim that they had voted on the issue, while dodging the real proposal. An initiative petition only requires an easily attainable one quarter of the Convention to succeed, and ultimately to be placed on the ballot for popular ratification. A legislative amendment needs a majority vote of the Convention. The maneuver postponed consideration of the initiative petition until the very last day of the session, confirming suspicions that the Legislature intends to kill it through inaction.

The Catholic Action League called the tactic by the Legislature "a shameful and cowardly betrayal of their responsibilities and their constituents."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "The Massachusetts Legislature has stooped to a tactic which would have been beneath the dignity of the old Supreme Soviet. A majority of the members of the General Court have clearly signaled their intention to dishonor their oath and to violate the Constitution. In doing so, they have insulted the intelligence of the electorate and exhibited their contempt for the democratic process. This is a body of men and women who manifestly lack integrity."

"In a December, 2002 opinion, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the Legislature *must* hold an up or down vote on an initiative petition. Governor Mitt Romney should use his authority to call the Convention back into session before the end of the year."



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C.J. DOYLE

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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE CRITICISES CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOR AD IN *BAY WINDOWS***

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today criticized Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston for advertising in *Bay Windows*, New England's leading homosexual newspaper. The quarter page ad, promoting the Christmas house tour of South Boston's Laboure Center, appeared on page eight of the November 9 - November 15, 2006 edition of *Bay Windows*. The ad was published just one week before *The Pilot*, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston, rebuked the editor of *Bay Windows*, which it described as "Massachusetts' gay lifestyle newspaper," for opposing a legislative vote on the initiative amendment to prohibit same gender marriage.

The Catholic Action League called the ad "either an appalling example of bad judgment or a disturbing sign of indifference to Church teaching, or both."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle stated: "At a time when faithful Catholics are waging a difficult struggle against unfavorable odds to restore traditional marriage in Massachusetts, they should be able to expect clear and unambiguous support from our Catholic institutions. Instead, Catholic Charities continues to compromise itself, undercut pro-family Catholics, and expose the Church to the charge of hypocrisy by repeatedly sending mixed messages on the issue of homosexuality."

"First it was revealed that Catholic Charities had engaged in same sex adoptions. Then Catholic Charities honored Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, a prominent proponent of same sex marriage. Now Catholic Charities has advertised in a newspaper which celebrates homosexuality. More and more Catholics are beginning to wonder what kind of tone deaf leadership is being exercised at Catholic Charities."

"Even beyond the issue of same gender marriage, the photographs, cartoons, commercial and classified ads, and story content of *Bay Windows* are of a character that would fail to meet even elementary standards of Catholic modesty and decency. It would be inappropriate for any Catholic institution to advertise at any time in a publication of this nature. If Catholic moral teaching is to be taken seriously, and if the Archdiocese of Boston is earnest in its opposition to same gender marriage, then Cardinal O'Malley needs to address, once again, the ongoing problem of Catholic Charities."



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2006  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE JOINS GOVERNOR ROMNEY IN LAWSUIT FOR RIGHT TO VOTE**

C.J. Doyle, Executive Director of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, joined Governor Mitt Romney and others in a lawsuit filed today before the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth in an effort to compel the Legislature to fulfill its constitutional obligation to vote on an initiative amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Although the initiative petition for the amendment received the signatures of 170,000 registered voters, the largest number in state history, the Legislature has twice recessed a constitutional convention to avoid voting on the measure.

If the proposed amendment receives the support of one fourth of two successive Legislatures, meeting in joint constitutional convention, it will be placed on the ballot for ratification by the people. The 48<sup>th</sup> and 81<sup>st</sup> Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution *require* legislative "final action" on proposed amendments.

The plaintiffs in the suit, who are represented by attorneys from Hanify & King, include the Governor and the original signatories of the initiative petition. They are requesting the court to order the Legislature to obey the constitution and take a vote, or, in the event of legislative inaction, to instruct the Secretary of the Commonwealth to place the measure on the ballot.

The Catholic Action League called the suit "an extraordinary plea for justice, made necessary by the corrupt and cowardly dereliction of duty by our legislators."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle stated: "By refusing to vote on this measure, legislators are violating the explicit and unambiguous provisions of the constitution. They are abusing their office, dishonoring their oath, and depriving the citizens of their lawful right to amend the constitution through the initiative petition process. More importantly, they are denying four million registered voters the right to vote on the definition of marriage. The responsibility for any infringement on the separation of powers which may result from this court case must rest squarely on the shoulders of the legislative leadership and on those who voted to recess the last convention."



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## **NEWS RELEASE**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: C.J. DOYLE

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### **CATHOLIC ACTION LEAGUE COMMENDS SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT FOR OPINION IN MARRIAGE CASE**

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts today commended the Supreme Judicial Court for its opinion in *Doyle v. Secretary of the Commonwealth*, the lawsuit filed by Governor Mitt Romney and ten others, (including League Executive Director C.J. Doyle), seeking a decision of the court mandating a legislative vote on the initiative amendment, signed by more than 170,000 Bay State voters, defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Although the constraints of the separation of powers prevented a judicial decision ordering a vote, the court did state that "The members of the joint session have a constitutional duty to vote, by the yeas and nays, on the merits of all pending initiative amendments before recessing on January 2, 2007." The court went on to say that "...the language of Article 48 is not ambiguous." It also reminded legislators that they have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

The League called the opinion "a straightforward statement of what the Constitution says, and what is explicitly required of legislators by the Constitution."

Catholic Action League Executive Director C.J. Doyle commented: "It is now unequivocally clear that any attempt by the Legislature to recess the Constitutional Convention without voting on the marriage amendment will mean that the Constitution has been violated, the oaths of office sworn by legislators have been dishonored, and the right of the people to amend the Constitution through the initiative petition process has been denied."

"Ultimately, any system of law or of constitutional government must depend on the good faith and the integrity of those who administer it. Sadly, no court decision can infuse integrity into an institution as sordidly corrupt as the Massachusetts Legislature. After today however, legislators, at the very least, will no longer be able to hide behind a patently false interpretation of their responsibilities under Article 48 of the Constitution."

"This controversy also underscores the hypocrisy and contempt for the democratic process of the homosexual lobby, who went to the courts to obtain what they could not secure from the Legislature - same-gender marriage - and are now urging the Legislature to ignore the very court which rendered the *Goodridge* decision."