

New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops



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Diocese of Gallup - Most Rev. James S. Wall

Statement of the New Mexico Catholic Bishops on Domestic Partnership

Albuquerque, NM, Wednesday, January 20, 2010--IMMEDIATE RELEASE--After reviewing the legislation for the 2010 State Legislative Session regarding domestic partnership, the Catholic bishops of New Mexico have determined that because of ethical concerns, they cannot give it their support. The bishops also oppose any legislation resembling the bill on domestic partnership introduced in the 2009 State Legislative Session.

The opposition to the proposed legislation is based on language that could serve as the foundation for the court's approval of same-sex marriage. We would see passage of such legislation as a stepping stone towards same-sex marriage. Also, it would lead to the teaching of homosexuality in public schools. We believe that traditional marriage and family life are essential to our society.

- Marriage is the permanent bond between one man and one woman whose two-in-one flesh communion of persons is an indispensable good at the heart of every family and every society.
- Male-female complementarity is intrinsic to marriage. It is naturally ordered towards authentic union and generation of new life.
- The true nature of marriage, lived in openness to life, is a witness to the precious gift of the child and to the unique roles of a mother and father.
- Jesus teaches, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female'...For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" (Mt. 19:4-6).
- The U.S. bishops state that legal recognition of same-sex unions would affect "levels of education and religious freedom."

At the same time that the bishops opposed the proposed legislation they make it clear that they are against any unjust discrimination towards homosexual persons and condemn emphatically hate crimes directed at anyone, including people of same-sex orientation. In keeping with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2358, the bishops uphold a pastoral approach marked "with respect, compassion and sensitivity towards homosexual persons."