

Catholics for Marriage Equality

DVD Discussion Questions

1. What statements, experiences and insights resonate with you? What do you find yourself agreeing with? Why?
2. What statements, experiences and insights challenge you? What questions are raised for you as a result?
3. What aspects of the Catholic faith support and encourage the participants' understanding and stance on marriage equality for same-sex couples?
4. If you were to share this DVD with others, how would you describe it? What would you say is the overall message? How effective has this message been conveyed?
5. Both Richard and Scott talk about becoming better people, better Christians, as a result of accepting themselves as gay. What does this say to you about homosexuality and same-sex relationships?
6. Why do you think Richard's father sees his gay son's relationship with Scott as being the same as his heterosexual daughter's marriage? Do you consider Richard and Scott married? Why?
7. Bob suggests that the Church's understanding of the role and purpose of sex is rooted in the writings of St. Augustine (354-430) and St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274). His view is that the official leadership of the Church refuses to take into account the knowledge that has since been gained about human sexuality and the multiple roles sex plays in human life and experience. He believes that this has severely hampered the Church's ability to truly minister and provide guidance in the areas of sex, sexuality and sexual relationships. What are your thoughts?
8. Lisa states that the Catholic Church is mistaken about the issue of homosexuality and same-sex relationships, just as it was mistaken about Joan of Arc and Galileo. What do you think about this statement?
9. Darlene says she has left the institution but not the faith. What do you think this statement means? Can you relate to it?
10. In talking about their relationship Grace and Janet (like Richard and Scott) bear witness to the presence and action of God. They say that their loving relationship makes God's saving and liberating love a reality in their lives. Thus even though they are not officially sacramentally married, they experience their relationship as sacrament. What are your thoughts about this? Do you perceive a sacramental dimension to their relationship? Do you see the face of God in their testimonies of love?
11. If civil marriage rights were granted to same-sex couples, no church or religious institution would be required to change their views or practices. With this fact in mind, do you think the legal rights and benefits conferred to opposite-sex couples by civil marriage should be available to same-sex couples? Why?
12. Minnesota law already bans same-sex marriage. Enshrining this ban in the state Constitution via the proposed "marriage amendment" has been described as "kicking [gay] people when they are down." It has also been observed that legal "statutes and rulings are whiteboards that can be erased, while Constitutions are granite." In the past, Constitutional amendments have only been passed in order to *extend* rights to others, not restrict them. Given all of this, how do *you* feel about the November 2012 ballot initiative that will ask you to vote on whether or not civil marriage rights for same-sex couples should be Constitutionally banned?