

May 2-3, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

I hope you have been trying to follow some of the “legitimate” information concerning the Supreme Court’s case regarding the possibility of them redefining the definition of marriage. This is truly a time when we could be defining a total cultural turning point. I remember just a few years ago when I heard one of my friends saying: “I don’t know what the big deal is, it doesn’t affect my marriage.” By now many people are already finding out that it affects their marriage, their business, the raising of their children, and our culture’s definition of morality.

One of the problems in dealing with this issue is that so many people have a very hard time separating a tendency toward something and the reality of actually doing it. As Catholics we have the perfect example of the difference in our definition of mortal sin. It is not a mortal sin for me to think about killing someone. I have to actually do it before it is a mortal sin. In the case of our sexual orientations it is similar. Having a gender orientation is not sinful. When we start acting it out it is a different matter and there is no exception for the tradition male and female gender. We all have ways we can sin mortally. The Bible lists a few like prostitution, adultery, fornication, etc.

When you go on Facebook now, you can choose many gender options. You will initially be given the option of male and female but then you also have the option of “custom”. If you click that you have a blank option but if you start typing something into the box you get over fifty starting options. Here is their list: Agender, Androgyne, Androgynous, Bigender, Cis, Cis Female, Cis Male, Cis Man, Cis Woman, Cisgender, Cisgender Female, Cisgender Male, Cisgender Man, Cisgender Woman, Female to Male, FTM, Gender Fluid, Gender Nonconforming, Gender Questioning, Gender Variant, Genderqueer, Intersex, Male to Female, MTF, Neither, Neutrois, Non-binary, Other, Pangender, Trans, Trans Female, Trans Male, Trans Man, Trans Person, Trans Woman, Trans\*, Trans\* Female, Trans\* Male, Trans\* Man, Trans\* Person, Trans\* Woman, Transfeminine, Transgender, Transgender Female, Transgender Male, Transgender Man, Transgender Person, Transgender Woman, Transmasculine, Transsexual, Transsexual Female, Transsexual Male, Transsexual Man, Transsexual Person, Transsexual Woman, Two-spirit.

These are gender orientations. This is what the door we are opening is leading us to so far. Many of you saw or heard about Bruce Jenner’s interview in which he opens up about the tendency that he says he has been dealing with most of his life. After all the publicity things that he and his TV family have done the past few years it is hard for me to trust all that he says. But that does not change the conflicts that some people deal with as they try to sort out their sexual issues in today’s world. In previous centuries, as we went through the uncertainties that we felt as we were going through the process of maturing, we were guided back into a culture that reoriented us back to the basic of what human existence was about. At the same time the church guided us back toward our purpose in this world, which was to know, love and serve God in this world so we could gain the everlasting happiness of heaven. As so much of our culture has turned away from God we no longer see the need to focus on the Lord to gain heaven but we have also lost the idea of looking at the basics of what it means to be a human being. We are trying to go beyond it and many get lost in the process. They can’t figure out what their purpose is on this earth.

As the Supreme Court is looking at officially opening this door as the law of the land we had better pray that we, as the Church, can keep some focus on our real purpose.

**Also please remember that the Sunday morning Mass times will switch to 8am and 11am as of June 6-7.**

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank