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STATEMENT FROM ARCHBISHOP THOMAS J. RODI REGARDING THE U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION *OBERGEFELL v. HODGES*

As followers of Jesus we are called to respect the dignity of every person and to have a Christian love for each individual regardless of their background or their sexual attraction. However, love for every person does not change the nature of marriage. Throughout human history, and in every culture on the earth, marriage has been understood as a union between man and woman. This understanding of marriage is the foundation of family life and has proven itself to be in the best interests of human society. The 5-4 Supreme Court decision contradicts this consistent understanding of marriage. As an American I am deeply disappointed. As a person of faith, I know that this decision does not change the teaching of the Church. Our faith is determined by the teachings of Jesus contained in scripture. Jesus clearly taught that marriage is "man leaves father and mother and is joined to his wife and the two become one." (Matthew 9:5) No court decision can change the teachings of Jesus. As Christians, we will continue to uphold the teachings of the Lord and hold fast to marriage as a union of one man and one woman.

Even though we disagree with the Supreme Court decision, it is our hope that this will not cause the government to interfere with the Church's charitable works as we serve the poor and needy in our communities.