



**November 18, 2003 - Statement of Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston**

Since the inception of the Commonwealth and the writing of the Massachusetts Constitution, jurists, public officials, and common sense have interpreted marriage as meaning a lifetime covenant between a man and a woman. It is alarming that the Supreme Judicial Court in this ruling has cast aside what has been not only that interpretation of the Massachusetts Constitution but the very definition of marriage held by peoples for thousands of years. My hope is that legislators will have the courage and common sense to redress this situation for the good of society.

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