

Extremists and their agenda should be exposed

The Sept. 20 Commentary, "New effort to dehumanize gays, lesbians," by Andrew Praschak was extremely good. He made a clear presentation of several points which we need to understand and I can't argue with anything he said.

Praschak points to moral and religious right wing extremists as leading a campaign to prosecute gays. There is more we need to know about those leaders.

One cardinal objective in formation of our government was to provide freedom for all. Yet,

extremists are working diligently to force society to comply with their personal beliefs rather than permitting freedom for any views other than their own.

Actually, it is much worse than that. Over a decade ago we knew that being gay wasn't a matter of choice.

Gays are born different then the rest of us. A chemical balance within the brain makes the difference.

If there is a God, he made gays that way because he had a reason. But, extremists insist we can't tolerate

that.

It is time we identified those extremists for what they are and curtail their activities. They clearly have a compulsion to pursue an agenda and they certainly aren't followers of God.

Gays and lesbians have as much right to be here as the rest of us have. They have been here since the beginning of time and there is a reason. Closer scrutiny shows that they offer positive qualities to society.

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Bible states marriage is between man, woman

Andrew Praschak believes that keeping matrimony as a contract between a man and a woman and not between people of the same sex dehumanizes gays and lesbians. (Viewpoint Sept. 20) I disagree. It is simply the government's reaction in protecting one of society's most important institutions: family.

Family is the fundamental community in which the whole network of social relations is grounded, from the closest and most immediate to the most distant. The family has always been considered as the first and basic expression of man's social nature. Indeed, a person normally comes into the world within a family, and can be said to owe to the family the very fact of his existence as an individual.

The family, as a community of persons, is thus the first human "society." It arises whenever it comes into being the conjugal covenant of marriage, which opens a man and a woman to a lasting communion of

love and of life, and it is brought to completion in a full and specific way with the procreation of children. The "communion" of the spouses gives rise to the "community" of the family. The "community" of the family is completely pervaded by the very essence of "communion." On the human level, can there be any other "communion" comparable to that between a mother and a child whom she has carried in her womb and then brought to birth?" (John Paul II, Letter to the families).

Marriage is a precept of natural law and an institution created by God for man and woman. In the book of Genesis we read that "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them"(Gen. 1:27). God speaks to these newly created beings and he blesses them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28).

In reference to the

establishment of the family through marriage, the Book of Genesis also states that "a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). In the Gospel, Christ, disputing with the Pharisees, quotes these same words and adds: "So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6).

People of the same sex can live together but never marry. With all due respect, they may call their relationship as they please, but never marriage. Their relationship is not open to life. Asking government to recognize them as matrimony is non-applicable.

Crying discrimination and saying that not accepting same sex marriages creates a legally acceptable second-class status for gays and lesbians are arguments with no substance.

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