

Congratulations
to
Bishop
Clark
on his
25th
Anniversary
as our
Bishop



from the
people and
staff at
St. Jerome's
E. Rochester

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**St. Patrick,
Victor**

**CELEBRATE WITH
BISHOP
MATTHEW CLARK
ON HIS
25TH ANNIVERSARY**

**"We are open to
the unfolding
of faith and life."**

Massachusetts OKs same-sex marriages

BOSTON (CNS) — Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley of Boston greeted the arrival of legalized same-sex marriages in Massachusetts with "deep sadness" but reminded Catholics that "our sadness at what has happened should not lead us into anger against or vilification of any group of people, especially our homosexual brothers and sisters."

Same-sex couples went to courthouses throughout Massachusetts to get marriage licenses May 17, the day the Supreme Judicial Court ruled the state had to begin granting the licenses to same-sex couples because it found the ban on same-sex marriages unconstitutional.

"The Catholic Church remains committed to the truth that marriage is a unique bond between a wife and a husband, a bond which is the bedrock and foundation of our families and society," the archbishop said in a May 13 statement.

On March 29, Massachusetts legislators approved a state constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriages but grant same-

sex civil unions a legal status equivalent to marriage. The amendment must be approved again by the 2005-06 Legislature before it goes to a popular vote.

Archbishop O'Malley said the church's defense of traditional marriage "is motivated by a deep conviction concerning the common good of all citizens."

"Marriage is given special protections and benefits in law because it is the institution which best provides for the procreation and raising of children," he said in the statement. "The creation of a right to same-sex marriage in the end will not strengthen the institution of marriage within our society but only weaken it as marriage becomes only one lifestyle choice among many others."

But the Boston archbishop said every person must be viewed "as an irreplaceable gift from God."

"Each time we pray the Lord's Prayer we begin, (with the words) 'Our Father,' reminding us that as God's children we are brothers and sisters of all," he said.

*We congratulate
Bishop Matthew Clark
on his 25 years as
head of the Roman
Catholic Diocese
of Rochester.*

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