

## **TO ACT OR NOT TO ACT**

### **THE DA VINCI CODE**

This is one item that I was going to ignore, because it deserves to be ignored. I have not read the book nor intend to buy it, and I plan to boycott the movie. That is the best thing that we Christians can and ought to do. The author has admitted that his book is fiction and he even speaks of it as a “novel.” While the story does refer to historical facts (according to those who have read it), it does so in a way as to make you think that they could be true, even though the story line is fiction.

My decision to mention it here is prompted by a group of well-intentioned Christians who staged a public demonstration outside a cinema recently. What that did was create publicity for the film by placing the story of the demonstration on the front page of a local newspaper.

It appears that both the book and film are insulting to Christians by making preposterous and untrue statements about Christianity and the Church. Jesus is depicted in a most unfavorable way. When something similar was done relative to the Prophet Mohammed, the Muslims were ready to kill. That is not the Christian way.

There have been numerous articles and books disproving many of the claims made in the novel. I find it encouraging and uplifting to my faith to have secular reporting present historical facts that support my trust in the Jesus that I have been called to serve in his Assembly of Believers.

The matter of “The Da Vinci Code” is best left ignored. That is the advice of at least one official of the Vatican. I am sorry that I felt compelled to call attention to it here. Save your money for something worthwhile.

### **A MARRIAGE AMENDMENT**

Christians, however, do need to act in the matter of the proposed amendments to the constitutions of both the Commonwealth and the Nation. Such amendments are to define what the state would consider as marriage. After millennia of understanding what it is that is meant by marriage, I find it ludicrous that governments such as ours now have to define it by law. Yet, due to our permissive society, that is where we find ourselves.

As the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference reminds us, over the years and across cultures and very different religious beliefs, marriage has been and is the foundation of the family. The family, in turn, is the basic unit of society. Thus, marriage is a personal relationship with public significance. 19 states have already voted to protect the age-old understanding of marriage with amendments to their constitutions.

Activist groups are seeking to change the definition of marriage as something other than a union between one man and one woman. We Christians have an obligation to act and to do it now, so that such a change does not happen. It is important to note that an amendment will not take any existing rights away from anyone. It will not affect benefits offered by private employers. It will not affect wills, joint ownership of property, contracts or agreements between unmarried individuals. It does not unfairly discriminate against anyone.

The Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania issued a statement on the occasion of a recent meeting. In it, we appeal to our Catholic Faithful and, indeed, to all the citizens of our Commonwealth to make their voices heard. Writing to our senators, representatives, and legislators urging them to support an amendment is important. They actually pay attention to the volume of letters that they receive. Today, e-mails work as well. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Website ([pacatholic.org](http://pacatholic.org)) makes it easy in this regard.