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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

## SUPREME COURT DOMA DECISION

# U.S. Archbishop: Rulings suggest 'worrisome' future

## More teens find safety at Covenant House Ga.

**New facility increases beds from 15 to 80 for young on street**

BY ANDREW NELSON

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ATLANTA—Lanetta Dorsey had a stormy relationship with an aunt who raised her, facing abuse of all kinds before she was tossed out to fend for herself on the streets.

"She was calling me everything but my name," said Dorsey. "I was in and out of garbage. It was really bad."

She faced a nomadic life at 18, in and out of mental health facilities, moving from her native Chicago to St. Louis looking for family to take her in.

Part of the issue was money as her aunt had little financial support herself, but it was also Dorsey's sexual identity. Her family's religious beliefs clashed when she told her family she was gay.

"How could someone love me when my own family doesn't love me?" she asked herself.

She found acceptance four years later at Covenant House Georgia which now motivates her to attend college and study social work so she can help others like herself.

"I thought they were going to judge me, especially because I was gay, but they didn't," Dorsey said.

Covenant House Georgia serves youth generally from 16 to 21 years old who face a variety of

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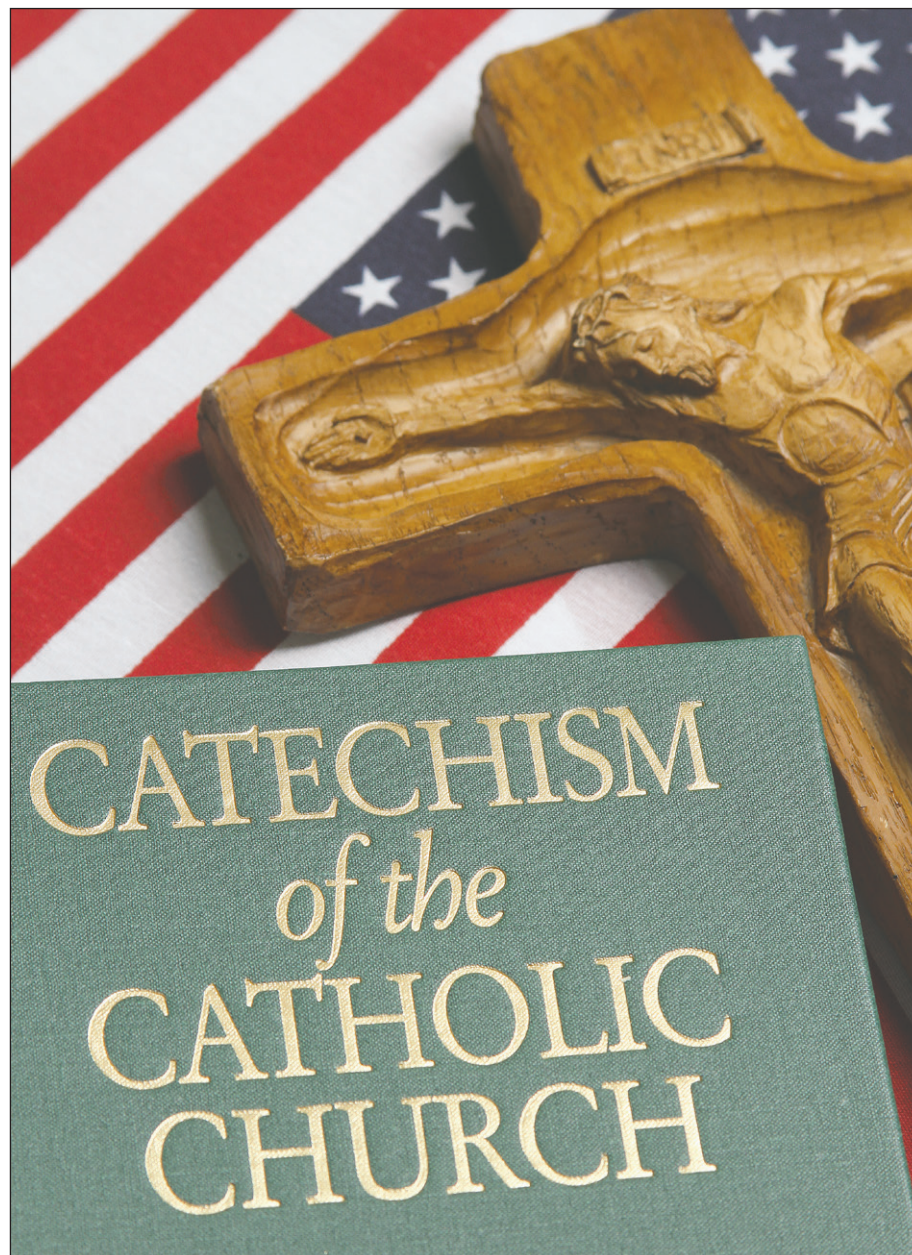


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER | THE GEORGIA BULLETIN

**Marriage has the status it does in law because it has always been a child-centered institution.**

ROME (CNS)—The "future of our democracy" is "very, very worrisome," U.S. Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone said in reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 rulings striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act and refusing to rule on the merits of a ban on same-sex marriage in California.

The high court remanded the California case to lower courts on the grounds that the individuals who defended the law in court lacked legal standing to do so.

Archbishop Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, spoke to Catholic News Service in Rome the day the court handed down its two decisions.

He was there to receive his pallium from Pope Francis in a ceremony June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. The pope presented palliums to archbishops named in the past year. The woolen stole signifies an archbishop's authority over the Christian community.

In addressing the court's refusal to rule on the merits of a challenge to California's Proposition 8, the voter-approved initiative barring same-sex marriage, Archbishop Cordileone noted that 7 million voters in California voted for the proposition and "many of them invested a lot of hard work and a lot of time and lots and lots of money against seemingly insurmountable odds."

When the state "refused to defend the law," he said, its proponents hired legal counsel, raised money and invested hard work to defend it. "Now they're being told that those elected officials charged with the duty of defending the laws of the state can refuse to do their duty simply because they disagree with the law and disenfranchise 7 million voters," he said.

In response to the court's ruling that DOMA is unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause, Archbishop Cordileone said the court "overturned a law that respects and enforces the principle that it's in

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