



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Parents' Rights to Teach Their Children About Gender *But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.*

Mark 10:6

The Catholic church teaches that parents have the basic right and responsibility to direct their children's educations. Across the country too many schools have usurped a role of teaching children theories about sex that have no basis in science and directly contradict many families' religious beliefs.

Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington explains: "In the past decade our culture has seen growing acceptance of transgender ideology-that is, the claim that a person's biological sex and personal identity have no necessary connection and could in fact contradict each other." **Pope Francis. (2016). *Amoris Laetitia*** "According to this view, "human identity" is self-defined and "becomes the choice of the individual."

This, according to Bishop Burbidge and other authoritative teachers of Catholic dogma, is an extreme challenge to all church members since this is a view contrary to the truth. Pope Francis has warned: "Today children-children!-are taught in school that everyone can choose his or her sex. Why are they teaching this? Let us not play with truths. It's true that behind all this we find gender ideology. In books, kids learn that it's possible to change one's sex. Could gender, to be a woman or to be a man, be an option and not a fact of nature? This leads to this error. Let us call things by their names." **Pope Francis. (2016, July 27)**

In Montgomery County, Maryland parents have been refused the ability to opt out their children from gender ideology lessons which the Muslim, Orthodox and Catholic parents argue conflict with their religious beliefs and their right to teach those beliefs to their children. The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty will present the parents' case to the Supreme Court this spring. Other similar cases are working their way through the courts with parents seeking to protect the 1st Amendment religious freedom of their families to follow their faith.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/ywex6yy2> <https://tinyurl.com/42nb7w9s>
<https://tinyurl.com/48rtaw9u>

***Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6***