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## Kudos to JCPA

by Michael Sean Winters

Distinctly Catholic

Here is an example of a religious leader, Rabbi Steve Gutow, President of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, speaking kindly and intelligently about the Supreme Court's decisions:

*"Today's Supreme Court decisions on the Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 8 were met with celebration by many who have supported the right of people of the same sex to marry. Others have felt that such rights should not be afforded because of earnestly held religious beliefs. There are differing opinions as to how Jews should respond to this issue, although there is consensus that Judaism teaches respect for others and that we abhor discrimination against individuals.*

*"We live in a democratic society in which we are all free to express our opinions about social issues and to advocate vigorously for those opinions. That is part of what makes our nation great. We have a system of laws that protects our rights to speech, religion - and to petition our government to redress grievances as the plaintiffs in the marriage cases did today. No one group and no religion has the right to dictate its beliefs to the entire body politic. In the end, our democratic process determines matters such as this, and that process has spoken. Many in our community are celebrating this decision. Others do not join in that celebration. Together, we must continue in honest dialogue, learning from one another, and striving for what is best for our community and our nation."*

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