

## Kudos to +Sample

Michael Sean Winters | Jun. 9, 2014 Distinctly Catholic

Archbishop Alexander Sample is to be commended for the tone, and the substance, of [his response](#) [1] to Oregon's joining the ranks of states where same-sex marriage is now legal. There is no gay-bashing, no dark threats about a non-existent "gay agenda," no warnings about a civilizational threat. +Sample states the Church's teaching about the nature of marriage, but he first states the Church's teachings about the dignity of the human person, *qua* human person. I do not know if this is the "Francis effect" or not, but I do know that if our U.S. bishops had been speaking this way about same-sex marriage all along, they would have made fewer enemies, had a better shot at making the Church's case against same-sex marriage, and, going forward, this avoidance of vitriol and hyperbole commends itself to all bishops. Just say "No" to the culture wars. Just say "Yes" to the Gospel.

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[1] <http://www.catholic sentinel.org/main.asp?SectionID=4&SubSectionID=253&ArticleID=25301>