

ing in California in favour of same-sex unions

The ever more defenceless value of traditional marriage

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Before the 2008 referendum was approved in California, marriage between people of the same sex had already been celebrated for a few months. Currently about 40 of the 50 States consider same-sex marriage illegal, but this number continues to decrease. Last June the ban was revoked in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Washington, D.C. Following on this same path is New Jersey and Washington. In fact the State of Washington's Senate has already approved a law which is predicted to be definitively accepted with the Governor's signature. Meanwhile the ruling in California could eventually move on to the Supreme Court.

Global Council of Indian Christians

Persecuted Christians in Orissa choose forgiveness

The persecuted Christians in Orissa want to "forgive and love their enemies" as the Gospel of Christ urges. This is what emerged from a meeting held in early February at a home for lepers of the Missionaries of Charity in Jalna, near Bhubaneswar, capital of Orissa. Nearly 100 people participated in the meeting organized by the Global Council of Indian Christians (GCIC), an organization committed to protecting Christians. Among the participants were widows and children of the district of Kandhamal, the epicentre of anti-Christian massacres in Orissa in 2008, which caused more than 100 deaths and 56,000 displaced people. Moments of reflection, prayer and sharing took place at the meeting. Sajan K. George, lay Christian President of the GCIC, invited the participants "to forgive and love as Jesus taught, those who did harm".

At the meeting widows, who lost their husbands due to the violence in Kandhamal, spoke about their difficult life in the face of persecution and discrimination. "All participants in the meeting, despite the suffering and difficulties, decided to adhere to the commandment of forgiveness", said Fr Manoj Bagsingh, a parish priest from Salimgochha, responsible for the pastoral care of many victims of persecution. "This decision", he explained, "is the result of the realization that God does not abandon his people". Those present, despite their impoverished conditions, stressed their commitment to helping those in need. "This is a great gift", said Sr Suma, Regional Superior of the Missionaries of Charity in Orissa.

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dained a priest on 19 March 1992.

'Doonby' to open in the United States

GIANFRANCO GRIECO*

February will see the initial launch of an important new feature film *Doonby* in the United States on screens in Mississippi in the week of the 17th and in Dallas, Texas on the 24th. Directed by British writer, Peter Mackenzie and produced by his son Mike Mackenzie and Mark Joseph, the movie stars John Schneider as the main protagonist Sam Doonby, supported by famous actors, Jenn Gotzon, Ernie Hudson, Robert Davi, Jennifer O'Neil, Joe Estevez and Will Wallace in key roles.

Set in a small Texan town, *Doonby* shows how an out-of-wedlock pregnancy unleashes a conflict between maternal love and life and the easy option of convenience, comfort and self-serving ambition. Brilliantly weaving an intriguing tapestry of complex moral choices and their consequences, Mackenzie's disturbing subplot presents a concoction of distrust, lies and selfish desires, as well as painful regrets epitomized by the cameo role of town busybody Nancy Thirber played by Norma McCorvey, the successful plaintiff in the historic Roe v. Wade case of 1973 that led to the legalization of abortion on demand and whose current pro-life stance embodies America's ambivalence over the subject.

Doonby tells the story of a mysterious but instantly likeable drifter who arrives in the community and becomes a popular local hero with acts of selfless heroism. Soon small town jealousies and envy lead the locals to reject him and Sam Doonby disappears as quickly as he came, leaving them to face the terrible repercussions and wonder if he was no more than an illusion, a hallucination leading to the film's disturbing conclusion.

This is a moving and thought-provoking psychological thriller on many levels with a haunting finale that will linger in your mind and obsess your consciousness as you tackle a puzzle that will challenge each and every perception or conviction while you experience folorn feelings of speechlessness and shock, but ultimately of liberation!

*Conventual Franciscan, Office Head at the Pontifical Council for the Family

VATICAN BULLETIN

Krbava, began his mission as Apostolic Nuncio in Uzbekistan with the presentation of his Letters