

Students for Child-Oriented Policy is pleased to announce its first annual conference:

For Richer, For Poorer, For Children: The Definition and Importance of Civil Marriage

**McKenna Conference Center at the University of Notre Dame
Noon to 7 p.m. on April 3, 2014**

Sponsors include: [Tocqueville Program for Inquiry into Religion and American Public Life](#), [The Irish Rover](#), [Ruth Institute](#), [The Strake Foundation](#)

What is marriage? What purpose does it serve as a *civil* institution, and why is it a *political* subject? As controversial as marriage has become across the country, these questions are rarely addressed. Many in the national media are more interested in pronouncing marriage a non-issue in politics than in examining the effects that civil marriage has on the youngest and the poorest among us. Here in Indiana, however, we should not ignore how important it is for these most vulnerable members of society that we properly define and promote marriage as a civil institution. This conference will gather student leaders from across Indiana to form a statewide network of advocates for marriage, properly defined, as a child-oriented civil institution that specially serves the poor.

Confirmed speakers include:

Prof. Robert Oscar Lopez, Associate Professor of English, California State University

Prof. Gerard V. Bradley, Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame

Arina Grossu, Director of the Center for Human Dignity, Family Research Council

Katrina Harrington, Founder, “Cedars & Tiny Flowers” Website

Bishop Harry Jackson, Jr., Presiding Bishop of the International Communion of Evangelical Churches

Prof. Daniel Mark, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Villanova University

Jennifer Thieme, Director of Finance and Advancement, Ruth Institute

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Founded by a group of undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Notre Dame, **Students for Child-Oriented Policy (SCOP)** is a student organization focused on promoting policymaking that gives primary emphasis to how any particular policy will affect children. SCOP believes that the needs and rights of children are too often ignored while policymakers proceed from the point of view of the stable, independent adult with resources—or worse, from that of the politically powerful special-interest group. SCOP aims to develop a well-informed, action-oriented network of students committed to serving the youngest members of our society.

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