**Letter of Vatican on Pope’s Words in Documentary ‘Francis’** *Pastoral Clarification Willed by Francis.*

NOVEMBER 02, 2020 16:56[ZENIT STAFF](https://zenit.org/author/staffreporter/)[POPE FRANCIS](https://zenit.org/category/pope-francis/) ***By Larissa I. Lopez with Anita Bourdin***

A letter published by the Secretariat of Vatican State explains what Pope Francis said on persons of the same sex living together in the documentary *“Francesco”*(Francis).

It is a “pastoral” document for the use of Bishops, willed by the Holy Father himself, to give all the necessary clarifications, after the confusion caused by interpretations of the documentary, Vatican sources confirmed to *i* French edition.

The text, in Spanish, was published last October 31, without any other indication of origin or recipient, in the Facebook page of Monsignor Coppola, which indicates implicitly the origin of the letter (State Secretariat) and Francis desire to clarify the context of his observations, which were misinterpreted.

As *Zenit*did, the letter explains that during “an interview, more than a year ago, Pope Francis responded to two different questions in two different moments, which, in the mentioned documentary, were edited and published as just one answer without due contextualization, which has generated confusion.”

**Pastoral Reference** In the extract that has caused disturbance in the media, the Holy Father made “a pastoral reference, in the first place, about the need that, within the family, a son or daughter with homosexual orientation never be discriminated. It is to them that the Pope’s words refer: ‘homosexual persons have the right to be in the family; they are children of God; they have the right to a family. No one can be thrown out of the family or make his/her life impossible because of it,’” reads the text.

To illuminate the Pope’s statements, the document refers to point 250 of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*(2016) on love in the family. “I took into consideration with the Synodal Fathers the situation of families that live the experience of having in their midst persons with homosexual tendencies, an experience in no way easy either for the parents of for their children. Therefore, we wish to reiterate, first of all, that every person, regardless of his/her sexual tendency, must be respected in his/her dignity and received with respect, endeavoring to avoid ‘any sign of unjust discrimination,’ particularly any form of aggression or violence. In regard to families, it’s about ensuring a respectful accompaniment, so that those who manifest a homosexual tendency can count on the necessary help to understand and carry out fully the Will of God in their life.”

**Local Law of Ten Years Ago** The letter then refers to the next question of the interview, which, “instead, was an inherent change to a local law of ten years ago in Argentina on the ‘egalitarian marriages of same-sex couples and of the opposition of the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires in this regard.”

In this connection, it continues, the Pontiff “has affirmed that it’s an incongruence to speak of homosexual marriage,’ adding that, in that same context, he had spoken of the right of these persons to have certain legal coverage: ‘what we have to do is a law of civil coexistence; they have the right to be covered legally. I defended that.”

**The Doctrine Is Reaffirmed** The document goes on to refer to the words that the Bishop of Rome pronounced in an interview in 2014. “Marriage is between a man and a woman. The secular States want to justify civil unions to regulate different situations of coexistence, moved by the need to regulate economic aspects between the persons as, for example, to ensure health care. They are coexistence pacts of a different nature, of which I would not be able to make a list of the different forms. It’s necessary to look at the different cases and to evaluate them in their variety.”

Hence, “it’s evident that Pope Francis referred to specific State dispositions, and certainly not to the Doctrine of the Church, reaffirmed numerous times over the course of the years,” it concludes.