



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
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Enclosure
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Some statements, contained in the documentary «*Francesco*» by director Evgeny Afineevsky, have aroused, in recent days, various reactions and interpretations. Therefore, some useful elements are offered, in the desire to favor, at your disposal, an adequate understanding of the words of the Holy Father.

Over ten years ago, in an interview, Pope Francis answered two distinct questions at two different times, which, in the aforementioned documentary, were drafted and published as a single answer without due contextualization, which has led to confusion. The Holy Father had first of all made a pastoral reference on the need that, within the family, a son or daughter with homosexual orientation should never be discriminated against. The words apply to this case: “*Homosexual persons have the right to be with the family; they are children of God, they have the right to a family. You cannot drive anyone away from the family and make life impossible for him or her because of this*” (“*Las personas homosexuales tienen derecho a estar en familia; son hijos di Dios, tienen derecho a una familia. No se puede echar de la familia a nadie ni hacerle la vida imposible por eso*”).

The following paragraph of the post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on love in the family «*Amoris lætitia*» (2016) can illuminate these expressions: “*With the Synod Fathers, I have taken into consideration the situation of families who live the experience of having people within them with homosexual tendency, an experience that is not easy for parents and children. Therefore we wish first of all to reiterate that every person, regardless of their sexual orientation, must be respected in their dignity and received with respect, with the care of avoiding ‘any unjust discrimination’ and particularly all forms of aggression and violence. With regard to families, it is instead a question of ensuring respectful accompaniment, so that those who manifest homosexual tenderness can have the necessary help to fully understand and realize God’s will in their lives*” (n. 250).

A subsequent question in their interview was instead inherent to a local law of ten years ago in Argentina on the «*matrimonios igualitarios de parejas del mismo sexo*» and the opposition of the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires against it.

In this regard, Pope Francis affirmed that “*it is an incongruity to speak of homosexual marriage*” (*es una incongruencia hablar de matrimonio homosexual*) adding that, in this precise context, he had spoken of the right of these people to have legal cover “*what we have to do is (to have) a law of civil coexistence; they have the right to be legally covered. I defended that*” (*lo que tenemos que hacer es una ley de convivencia civil, tienen derecho a estar cubiertos legalmente. Yo defendí eso*).

The Holy Father had expressed himself thus during an interview in 2014: “*If marriage is between a man and a woman, secular States want to justify civil unions to regulate situations of coexistence, driven by the need to regulate economic aspects between people, such as ensuring health care. These are coexistence agreements of various kinds, of which I cannot list the different forms. We need to see the different cases and evaluate them in their variety*”.

It is therefore evident that Pope Francis has referred to certain State provisions, certainly not to the doctrine of the Church, repeated numerous times over the years.

