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CNS documentary service

Response to *Dubium* on Blessing of Same-Sex Unions

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

The church “does not have, and cannot have, the power to bless” same-sex unions, but that stand “does not imply a judgment” on homosexual men and women, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said in a note and commentary released March 15. “It is not licit to impart a blessing on relationships, or partnerships, even stable, that involve sexual activity outside of marriage ..., as is the case of the unions between persons of the same sex,” the congregation said in explaining its negative response to the question: “Does the church have the power to give the blessing to unions of persons of the

“It is necessary that what is blessed be objectively and positively ordered to receive and express grace.”

same sex?” Pope Francis approved both the statement and the note for publication. The Vatican stressed that its clarification “does not preclude the blessings given to individual persons with homosexual inclinations, who manifest the will to live in fidelity” to church teaching. But to bless same-sex unions would serve “to approve and encourage a choice and a way of life that cannot be recognized as objectively ordered to the revealed plans of God,” the doctrinal office said. The statement came days before the March 19 launch of a yearlong reflection on the apostolic exhortation “*Amoris Laetitia*” (“The Joy of Love”) that will focus on the family and conjugal love. The congregation’s note and commentary follow, copyright © 2021 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

to the Question Proposed: Does the church have the power to give the blessing to unions of persons of the same sex?

Response: Negative.

Explanatory Note

In some ecclesial contexts, plans and proposals for blessings of unions of persons of the same sex are being advanced. Such projects are not infrequently motivated by a sincere desire to welcome and accompany homosexual persons, to whom are proposed paths of growth in faith, “so that those who manifest a homosexual orientation can receive the assistance they need to understand and fully carry out God’s will in

continued on page 710

2249A



contents

- 709 Response to *Dubium* on Blessing of Same-Sex Unions
by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
- 712 Iraq Visit: News Conference Aboard Plane Returning to Rome
by Pope Francis
- 717 Speech to Irish Bishops on Synodality
by Cardinal Mario Grech
- 720 Irish Church to Hold a National Synodal Assembly
by the Irish Bishops' Conference
- 721 Homily at Mass Celebrating 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines
by Pope Francis
- 722 Speech at Prayer Service for Myanmar
by Cardinal Charles Maung Bo
- 724 Datebook
- 724 On File

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