

I need to comment on the recent remarks by Pope Francis in the new documentary film that was released yesterday. He did mention to the effect that homosexual unions should be legal. This is a very disturbing comment coming from the head of the Catholic Church. There have been some questions about the translation and Bishops have called for clarification, so patience is prudent. Even so, the turmoil, confusion and unrest this creates is not of the Holy Spirit.

One of the unchanging truths of the Catholic Church is that marriage is ordained by God from the beginning to be of one man and one woman. There is no such thing as “same sex marriage” regardless of the current opinion of society. Not even a Pope can change this truth.

The other point is that these statements are in casual conversation, or the opinion of the man who is the Pope. They are far from being infallible statements of the Office of the Pope. There is a huge difference between the man who is Pope giving his opinion and the official teaching of the Church on truth and morals. The man who is Pope can be wrong. Infallibility of the Church doctrine is unchanged by this, and in fact are unchangeable. To be infallible, a Papal declaration must meet certain criteria: 1. It must be explicitly “ex-cathedra” or from the chair, an explicit statement that the Pope is acting as Pontiff on behalf of the Church, 2. must be on matters of faith and morals, 3. the Pope must state explicitly that it is for the entire Church and all faithful to believe. These infallible statements are actually very rare. “*Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*” by Pope John Paul II, whose feast day we celebrate today, on the ordination of only men in 1998 has been proposed as meeting the criterion for infallibility. Prior to that, the last infallible statement was in 1950 with the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception by Pope Pius XII. Before that it was in the 1800s. The point is that these infallibly proclaimed statements are uncommon at best, and the Pope’s current statements are not infallible; they are not even teachings of the ordinary Magisterium of the Church. Infallible statements are from the Holy Spirit and would not cause confusion or contradict the enduring truths of the faith passed down from the Apostles.

The bottom line is that the teaching of Holy Mother Church on marriage being of one man and one woman, and that sexual activity is to be reserved to marriage, has not and will not change.

Our Lady Of LaSalette, Pray For Us!!! Viva Cristo Rey !!!