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AMRI Executive expresses dismay at statement on blessing same-sex unions

At its recent meeting, the Executive Council of AMRI expressed its deep dismay at some of the language and concepts used in the Response and Explanatory Note issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith concerning the possibility or not of blessing same-sex unions.

Within the Explanatory Note, in particular, there appears to be a serious contradiction between the declared “sincere desire to welcome and accompany homosexual persons” and the harsh words towards the end that God “does not and cannot bless sin”. Many missionaries and religious who belong to the Institutes, Societies and Organisations that make up AMRI have daily contact in their ministry with LGBTQ+ people who are striving to live a life according to the Gospel. They feel that much of the language in the Explanatory Note is extremely hurtful to LGBTQ+ people, as well as their families and friends. Quite frankly, they are scandalised that such an important office could use such pastorally insensitive language.

Regrettably, the publication of the recent Response and Explanatory Note does not demonstrate a Church reaching out with compassion to all its members but has served to make matters worse. The men and women religious who are trying to reach out to the LGBTQ+ community in a Gospel-based inclusive manner feel that their efforts have been undermined by this statement.

On behalf of the Executive Council of AMRI and our concerned members, we have brought this matter to the attention of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Sr Kathleen McGarvey OLA
President

David Rose
Secretary General

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ASSOCIATION OF LEADERS OF MISSIONARIES AND RELIGIOUS OF IRELAND, CLG.

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