

# ARCHDIOCESE OF NAIROBI

## Office of the Archbishop



Your Ref:  
Our Ref:

**Statement of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Nairobi on the Declaration of the Dicastery of Doctrine and Faith “FIDUCIA SUPPLICANS” on the Pastoral Significance of Blessings.**

***To all Priests, Religious Men and Women, all Christians and all people of goodwill in the Archdiocese of Nairobi.***

In the light of the many questions raised to by the Clergy, Religious and the faithful of the Archdiocese of Nairobi regarding the *Declaration* “Fiducia Supplicans” on the pastoral meaning of blessings of the *Dicastery of Doctrine and Faith* on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023, as your current shepherd and successor of the Apostle, I make the following statement:

1. The *Declaration* states and correctly affirms the traditional Catholic doctrine on marriage and family, including the disapproval of the Catholic Church of homosexual unions. This *Declaration* confirms and reiterates the perennial teaching of the Church that marriage is to be affirmed as an “exclusive, stable and indissoluble union of a man and a woman, naturally open to the generation of children” (n. 4) and that the “Church does not have the power to impart blessings on unions of persons of the same sex” (n. 5).
2. The teaching of the Church on marriage is not only rooted in Scripture and Tradition, but also on natural law written into the hearts of every human being. Homosexual unions are against reason, against nature and against African cultural tradition. The word of God also strongly condemns such unions (cf. Rom 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:10; 1 Tim 1:10). The African cultural traditions equally detest it as it is clearly against transmission of life.
3. The pastoral practices of the Church regarding marriage and family are always based on the Gospel of Christ which leads to “eternal life” (John 6:68), and the enduring practices of the Church rooted in the Apostolic Tradition. It is for this reason that the Church excludes those living in irregular situations of marriage from full sacramental participation in the life of the Church, as they are invited to remedy their objectively sinful situation and are accompanied with pastoral care.
4. The concept of “blessing” means approval, permission, or even a commission for a certain type of action and mission. Just as from a “liturgical point of view, a blessing requires that what is blessed be conformed to God’s will” (n. 9), so too, even blessing outside of the liturgical rite requires whatever is blessed confirms to God’s will.
5. This is also because the concept of “blessing” is perceived by many as “permission”, especially as “permission to sin” and also as “normalising” this form of life-style. Thus, the notion of blessing same-sex couples, or irregular unions, can be perceived as legalizing these relationships, which the Church has no authority to do in faithfulness to the Gospel and the institution of marriage.
6. To make sure the fundamental doctrinal positions affirmed in the *Declaration*, and the perennial teachings of the Church on marriage, is upheld, **all Clergy residing and ministering in the Archdiocese of Nairobi are prohibited from blessing irregular relationships, unions, or same sex couples.** Any form of blessing of same-sex unions and activities would go against

**Abide in Me, and I in you (Jn 15:4)**

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P O Box 14231 - 00800 Westlands, Nairobi – Kenya. Cardinal Otunga Plaza 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cardinal Otunga Street.

Phone: +254 020 4950000 Direct line; 020 4950801 Cellphone: +254722429890

Email: [archbishop@archdiocesofnairobi.org](mailto:archbishop@archdiocesofnairobi.org). Website: [www.archdiocesofnairobi.org](http://www.archdiocesofnairobi.org)



God's word, the teachings of the Church, the African cultural traditions, the laws of our nations, and would be scandalous to the faithful.

7. The Gospel of Christ continues to call everyone to conversion of heart and belief in "Christ our Lord and God". This invitation is an expression of God's mercy to everyone. In the light of God's mercy, the Church imparts her blessing to *individual* persons struggling with sin and strive to do the will of God, determined to conform their lives to Church's teaching. This is done primarily in the sacrament of *Penance and Reconciliation* (cf. Lk 15:11-32). Such blessings are not only allowed but strongly encouraged.
8. May the Holy Spirit, enlighten our minds and hearts in embracing the truth of the Gospel of Christ through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Lord and the Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Your shepherd,



**Most Rev. Philip A. Anyolo**  
**METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF NAIROBI**

