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Office of the Bishop

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December 20, 2023

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP BARRON

On Monday, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, with the approval of Pope Francis, published a declaration entitled *Fiducia Supplicans*, which has given rise to a good deal of commentary and controversy. The document allows for the possibility of blessing those in irregular or same-sex relationships. Despite some misleading reporting in the media, *Fiducia Supplicans* in no way sanctions irregular bonds or changes the Church's teaching on marriage and sexuality. It further specifies that no liturgical blessing can be offered to those in such unions, but rather an informal pastoral blessing. This latter benediction is a calling forth of the divine grace to help those who receive it to live more fully in accord with God's will and to enhance whatever is good, true, and beautiful in their lives.

I believe that the declaration is very much congruent with the pastoral instincts of Pope Francis, who always wants to remind those who are living the Christian life in a less than perfect way that they are, nevertheless, loved and cherished by God. To all of Jesus' brothers and sisters, the Church should never fail to be a source of welcome, compassion, and blessing.