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## Pope Francis' Support for Civil Unions

by John McCarthy

NCR Today

My friend Christopher Hale (who also happens to be one of the most talented people I know) wrote a great piece for Millennial Journal recently that I thought was worth sharing with you all, and worth starting some important discussion on. According to the sources that Chris pulls together, several news reports are suggesting that Pope Francis, then Jesuit Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio may have backed gay civil unions as an alternative to the gay marriage law passed in Argentina in July 2010. The sources and commentary can be found [HERE](#).

Once you have had a chance to read through let's have a larger discussion on, "What role should the Catholic Church play in defining Civil Marriage?" So many Catholics share the belief that our LGBT brothers and sisters should be able to have a common-law marriage, even if the Church does not recognize it. Perhaps more broadly, we can ask ourselves, "How best can we include LGBT individuals in the Church?"

Let's get a conversation going, so please share your thoughts below:

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