



Thanksgiving 2025

Dear Friends,

*I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10).*

The approach of Advent and Christmas anticipate great celebration. Our Lord enters flesh to begin the great task of restoring us to the supernatural life terribly lost in Eden. That supernatural life, grace, is the pearl of great price. This is the mission of Courage and EnCourage! To lovingly shepherd men and women who experience same sex attraction onward to that pearl of great price. **Abundant life is only in humble surrender to Jesus Christ.**

This past year continues to testify to God's grace at work in Courage, as we forge ahead into more international as well as national chapters. We span from Poland to the Philippines, to Canada and to Argentina. We have 200 plus chaplains and growing!

Courage especially helps bring Our Lord's abundant life of grace because of magisterial fidelity. We are completely faithful to all the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. The CCC is our baseline. Our effectively pagan culture mocks the life of grace. It spreads a false gospel of unbridled freedom that ultimately only enslaves. For us at Courage, this only redoubles our efforts to build and spread our beloved apostolate everywhere.

**Thus, the financial needs of Courage International become even more critical today.** We operate from a budget of over 900,000 dollars. It is a very challenging amount to raise. What are the budget demands? The majority is spent on the very lean but extraordinarily effective staff we employ full-time and part-time in order to advance the grace-filled reach of Courage to the world. All our staff are very hard working, zealous and committed to the mission of this apostolate. They are the engine of Courage: answering countless emails and inquiries, overseeing social media on X, Instagram and Facebook; facilitating online Slack conversations that bring more sheep to the Lord's fold. They organize our annual conferences. Our priests have for years travelled all over the nation, leading clergy study days, educating priest, deacons and lay people on the extraordinary graces and healing God offers through Courage. Because Courage continues to grow, the demands on the staff only grow as well.

The patroness of my parish is St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower. Her dream was to be a missionary. Though she never went to the physical missions around the globe, she was still made a patroness of missions. Why? Precisely by embracing her vocation to use her gifts to help others facilitate the missionary work worldwide. Her personal sacrifices and graces gave powerful grace-filled impetus to missionaries thousands of miles away.

This parallels the work of Courage so beautifully. We look around at the pagan eruptions in our world redefining marriage, family, and the holy meaning of sexual intimacy as God designed it. We ask as did St. Therese: what can I do from afar? Even though you may not direct a Courage or EnCourage chapter or have a family member directly involved, your great generosity enables this mission to go forward and gather strength because of your prayers and material generosity. It is yet another way we become indirect missionaries. But... we are never indirect disciples! **Every act of support for evangelizing the true teaching of Our Lord through the Church makes us *de facto* missionaries with genuine growth in grace as God deems it.** Your support of Courage can become akin to the multiplying effect of the loaves and fishes! Many more will be satisfied by God's grace because they were able to find Him in the field via the missionary activities of Courage.

Seeing the spiritual war taking place in our culture, we are reminded that every war has an army that continually requires provisions, medicine for the wounded, as well as a winning call to arms. This is the Courage and EnCourage apostolate. Your generous donation brings us the provisions of indispensable material needs that enable our modest but strongly capable and impassioned staff, like Gideon's army, to reach many more people with SSA to the loving victory of Christ. Our call to arms is the Gospel message that Christ has conquered sin and death! Thus, Courage helps deliver God's powerful hope and healing to a world so thirsty for them.

To be blunt, the rising costs of everything has more than strained our budget. With several new necessary staffing hires and greater growth our lean budget needs your help more than ever. To compensate, **I humbly suggest, if I may, that everyone consider increasing your past contribution by 10 or even 20 percent or more if possible.** This is again a wonderful means through which your missionary work grows our mission as well!

We thank you in advance for whatever your generosity and means permit and be assured of our prayers for you. Thank you for your incredible support! Please keep us in daily prayer.

God love you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Brian Gannon', written in a cursive style.

Fr. Brian Gannon  
Executive Director