



Dear Friends:

This morning, February 6, 2026, at 9:30 am Rome time, we had an extraordinary opportunity to share the ministry of Courage International with the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

With the assistance of the chair of our episcopal board, Bishop Caggiano of the Diocese of Bridgeport; our executive director, Fr. Brian Gannon, our staff and Courage member Angelo Sabella, and myself were able to share the story of Courage International with Pope Leo. To share the experiences of our members of finding meaning and peace in Jesus Christ through the support and pastoral accompaniment provided by this great apostolate. We have been working to arrange such a meeting for some time, and we are grateful that Pope Leo invited Courage to meet with him.

Your prayerful support made this meeting possible, and it is through your continued prayers for this wonderful Apostolate that our meeting with the Holy Father will bear fruit. I wish we could have brought you all with us, but rest assured that we carried you with us in our hearts. When we shared your stories with the Holy Father, he assured us of his prayers for you and this apostolate. Fr. Gannon, Angelo, and I look forward to sharing our experience of the papal audience with you when we gather this summer at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary for the Annual Courage & EnCourage Conference.

While here in Rome, we spent time praying for you at the tombs of the Apostles and other shrines of our Catholic Faith. You, our members, are never far from us, especially when we are here.

With gratitude from the Eternal City,

Fr. Kyle Schnippel, Chair, Executive Board