Priests Show Great Pastoral Interest in Serving People with SSA

Spanish Courage Internacional holds second online conference

On Saturday, June 20, Courage International held its second online conference addressed to Spanish-speaking priests under the title "Accompanying People with Homosexual Inclinations: Pastoral Guidelines in Light of Truth and Mercy."

The conference was attended by more than 70 priests from 12 different countries. "Through their questions, we were able to note their great interest in serving our brothers and sisters who experience same-sex attractions (SSA)," said Rossana Goñi-Cuba, coordinator for Spanish-language chapters of Courage International. Many of our brothers and sisters with SSA look to the Church for that Mother who welcomes them, understands them, and leads them by the hand toward an understanding of the truth of their deepest identity as sons and daughters of God and toward an encounter with Jesus Christ in whom they can discover their true freedom."

During the conference, two testimonies were offered, the first from Andrés C., a member and coordinator of Courage Latino in the Archdiocese of Chihuahua, Mexico; the second, from an EnCourage mother, also from Mexico. In addition, Fr. Victor De Luna, Courage chaplain in Italy, offered an overview of Church teachings and made practical pastoral recommendations on how to minister with greater compassion and mercy to each person who experiences SSA and approaches the Church seeking to be heard and accompanied.

"Chastity is a beautiful virtue and a calling for all baptized — not just for people experiencing SSA — this is a very important part of what we teach at these conferences. Those who participate can not only get their questions answered, but can also learn about effective pastoral strategies. This can be very helpful because sometimes they do not know what to do, what to say, or how to advise people with SSA who approach them in confession or for dialogue," explained. Rossana.

Courage International will continue to organize these formative conferences in Spanish not only for priests, but also for lay people who have pastoral responsibility, religious, professionals in psychology and medicine, etc. Be sure to follow Courage's Spanish-language social media presence on *Courage Internacional's* Instagram and Facebook so that you are more informed of upcoming activities.