

Courage Representatives Visit Central America and the Caribbean

In February, a group of representatives from Courage International—including Father Philip Bochanski, executive director, and Rossana Goñi-Cuba, Spanish language coordinator—visited Guatemala in response to an invitation from the Archdiocese of Guatemala City to meet the new chapters in that Central American country.



Fr. Philip Bochanski in Guatemala

In the words of Rossana Goñi-Cuba, "It was very inspiring to see how the Church in Guatemala has strived to promote and establish the Courage apostolate in their country. We saw it in the generous response of the clergy, for they have four chaplains already with the best disposition to serve the almost forty Courage and EnCourage members in Guatemala."

After one of the events, a Courage member shared: "The Courage International representatives' visit means a lot to me. It is a way of living our third goal of Fellowship and feeling accompanied by these persons who give their lives for the apostolate. Their visit strengthens our desire to continue in this process by which we experience the fraternal embrace of the Catholic Church that welcomes us with love."

On the last day, the Courage (men and women) and EnCourage members got together in a lively social gathering where some Courage members from El Salvador joined, as well.



From left to right: Rossana Goñi-Cuba, coordinator of Courage Latino; Fr. Philip Bochanski; Bishop Faustino Burgos Brisman, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Santo Domingo; Fr. Robert Brisman, Courage chaplain.

Next, the Courage International representatives traveled to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, where Juan, a Courage Latino member from Mexico, joined them for this special visit. As part of the activities planned for this apostolic trip, the Courage representatives met with Bishop Faustino Burgos Brisman, Auxiliary Bishop of Santo Domingo, and Monsignor Víctor Masalles, Bishop of Baní. They also gave a series of talks aimed at priests, permanent deacons, seminarians, men and women religious, pastoral agents, psychologists, and educators.

Fr. Robert Brisman shared that: "This experience has been very beneficial to all the participants, who expressed their satisfaction with the Archdiocese's initiative of accompanying these children of God, our brothers and sisters in Christ, who experience same-sex attractions (SSA), in their spiritual journey, to help them live their faith, the mercy of God, and their belonging to the Church."

For more information about the Courage and EnCourage chapters in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, please visit: https://couragerc.org/courage/