



April 4, 2017

Dear members, benefactors, and friends of Courage and EnCourage,

It was with great pleasure that I joined the Courage team this past March to serve as its first-ever communications director. I am looking forward to the opportunity to help disseminate the message of hope which this apostolate brings to men and women with same-sex attraction and their loved ones.

A little background on myself: I am a journalist by trade, having worked in Rome, Italy for several years as a correspondent for various Catholic agencies, including Vatican Radio, L'Osservatore Romano, Catholic News Agency/EWTN, Shalom World TV's "Voice of the Vatican," and Zenit. During this period, I had the opportunity to meet and interview the then-director, Fr. Paul Check, as well as several Courage members. My eight years in Rome came to an end earlier this year when I received my STL in Church communications from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross.

Although same-sex attraction is not part of my personal story, I have long believed in the importance of ministering to those with this experience. Thus, I am certain that it was through the hand of Providence that the opportunity to join the Courage team presented itself when it did.

### **Privacy for members**

My job as communications director involves making Courage/EnCourage more visible in the public eye than it has ever been before. However, I am also deeply aware that the objective of this apostolate is, first and foremost, to care for the needs of men and women with same-sex attraction and their loved ones, many of whom prefer to remain out of the spotlight. Be assured that I am sensitive to our members' need for privacy, and will always strive to protect it.

## **When speaking to the media**

With full respect and understanding for members who have chosen to remain anonymous, I am also grateful to those who are willing to share their stories openly with the media. That said, as you well know, there are many who still see our message of hope as a threat to the LGBT ideology and way of life, and they will do everything in their power to silence or discredit us. For this reason, I ask that you contact me every time you are invited to give an interview with the press or to speak at an event, especially when doing so in the name of Courage/EnCourage; this way, we can work together in ensuring that the truth of the apostolate is accurately conveyed in every circumstance. You can call me at (203) 916 1156, or email me at [communications@couragerc.org](mailto:communications@couragerc.org).

I look forward to the opportunity to communicate this beautiful apostolate to the world. Please keep me in your prayers as I embark on this new endeavor, and be assured of mine.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Schneible". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Schneible  
Communications Director