

## Fr. Bochanski's Visit to Toronto

In March 2020, before COVID-19 travel restrictions and self-isolation/social distancing rules and recommendations were instigated across North America, Fr. Philip Bochanski, Executive Director of Courage International, visited Toronto, Canada for the first time! Fr. Philip had been invited by Cardinal Thomas Collins, the Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto, to speak at the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (March 9–11).

Fr. Philip arrived on the evening of Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, and enjoyed dinner out with the local Courage and EnCourage Chaplains: Fr. Kevin Belgrave, Fr. Ante Market, and Fr. Eric Rodrigues.



After attending the first day of the bishops' conference in downtown Toronto on March 9<sup>th</sup>, Father travelled to a parish in the north end of the city, where he gave an inspiring talk to a private gathering of several Courage and EnCourage members, which began with Eucharistic Adoration and ended with an enjoyable time of fellowship. Fr. Vaughan Quinn, a former Toronto Courage Chaplain who now resides in Ottawa, and Fr. Quinn's sister from Montreal made a special trip to Toronto to attend this gathering and meet Fr. Philip. Fr. Quinn also gave an impromptu, encouraging presentation to all gathered. The event was hosted and planned by Fr. Belgrave and Fr. Rodrigues, and Fr. Market was also in attendance.



On Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Philip addressed the Ontario bishops at their assembly. The bishops were very attentive and greatly appreciated Fr. Philip's presentation on the strengths and benefits of the Courage Apostolate. That evening, Father was invited to join the bishops for dinner, where he was able to speak with them in a less formal setting and answer more of their questions. We hope this encounter will lead to greater support for Courage and EnCourage ministry across Ontario.

On Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, after having lunch out with Fr. Belgrave and Fr. Alexander MacDonald, Associate Pastor at St. Michael's Cathedral, Fr. Philip was taken to visit the CN Tower, to enjoy the view!

The Toronto Courage and EnCourage members and chaplains, as well as the bishops of Ontario, are very grateful for the time Fr. Philip spent with all of us and were blessed by his visit. We sincerely hope Father will be able to visit us again very soon (once travel and social distancing restrictions are lifted).