

What is the role of the Executive Director of Courage International?

Courage International is established as a *public clerical association of the Christian faithful*. Therefore it is a “canonical person,” an organization that has standing in the Catholic Church and is recognized by its laws. The association is governed by the *Statutes of Courage International*, officially recognized and approved by the Bishop of Bridgeport, the diocese in which the Courage Office is located. It is led by a board of seven diocesan bishops (always including the Bishop of Bridgeport and the Archbishop of New York), who make up the *Episcopal Board*.

The Executive Director is the canonical *moderator* of Courage International. That is, he is authorized by the Episcopal Board to lead the apostolate, its members and chaplains, in carrying out its mission and Goals. In a way, the Executive Director is like a pastor, as well as a spiritual father, to the Courage and EnCourage family. His responsibilities are outlined in the *Statutes*, and include:

- representing Courage International in all public matters;
- serving as spokesman for the apostolate, especially in the media;
- implementing the plans established by the Episcopal Board;
- looking after the budget and temporal goods of the association;
- coordinating with local, national and regional chaplains;
- administration of the staff and projects of the Courage Office;
- providing continuing formation for members, chaplains, and others through study days, retreats, workshops, social media, and the annual conference.

The Executive Director is always a priest, who serves with the permission of his diocesan bishop or the superior of his religious congregation. He is appointed by the Episcopal Board for a term of office that usually runs for five years and may be renewed. He must tender his resignation if his bishop or superior calls him to another ministry.

Courage International, Inc., is also a civil corporation registered in the State of Connecticut. The Episcopal Board comprises the corporate members, and the Executive Director serves as the chief executive officer of the corporation. He manages the Courage Office, protects the corporation’s finances and temporal goods, and assures that Courage International is in compliance with civil law, as well as canon law.