

March 13, 2020 STATEMENT: Courage International is closely monitoring ongoing developments surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to our apostolate. Please note the following:

As of this date, we have no immediate plan to cancel any of our events in 2020. We intend to continue serving our members through the meetings, retreats, conferences, and other events that we offer year-round; however we recognize the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic and the health and safety of everyone wishing to participate in our events is our priority.

## Courage meetings:

We have not mandated that chaplains cancel local Courage or EnCourage meetings. However, it is possible that some meetings may be cancelled at the direction of the local diocese, or at the discretion of the local Courage or EnCourage chaplain.

We encourage local chaplains to consider using conference calling or video chat when in-person meetings cannot be held. Additional support is available through our recently revamped <u>Online Forums</u>, <u>or take part in the Courage on Call conference call meeting</u>.

## Other events:

Those who will attend in-person events in the next few months should take the following steps:

- Visit the website of the <u>Centers for Disease Control</u> (CDC) for general information regarding COVID-19.
- Visit the website of state and local Departments of Health website at home and for the location of the event.
- Contact airlines, hotels, rental car companies, etc., to inquire about their policies regarding precautionary measures, cancellations, etc., before booking travel.
- People who are at high risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 are encouraged not to attend our events until the pandemic has been brought under control. Anyone who is unsure whether they are at risk should review the CDC website.

Courage International is consulting regularly with regional health authorities and the venues which are scheduled to host our events. Should it become necessary to postpone, relocate, or cancel one or more of our scheduled events, information will be published immediately on the Courage website and email newsletter, and will be emailed to anyone who has already registered for the event

Please join us in praying for the speedy recovery of the sick, the repose of the souls of those who have died of COVID-19 and the intentions of everyone affected by this crisis.

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