



9 January 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

A few weeks ago, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, published the declaration *Fiducia Supplicans* ('Supplicating Trust'), which has caused a lot of noise in the media, both secular and Catholic. However, amidst all this noise there was often minimal relevant conversation about the actual content of the document or the perennial theology that the document explicated. The document was intended to develop a deeper appreciation of the pastoral meaning of simple blessings.

The clarification issued January 4<sup>th</sup> was made as a result of the diversity of reactions and pastoral implementation of this development. There is a clear reiteration that this development in no way changes Church teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage and sexuality, contrary to many news reports and social media posts. Below you will find links to the English version of *Fiducia Supplicans* and the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith's January 4<sup>th</sup> press release seeking to clarify the essence of the document.

Although it is likely most of you have already read the documents, we would like to share them with you again and encourage you to read them again, or for the first time. Yet we would ask you to do so in a spirit of prayer and with peace of heart open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We would invite you to read and meditate on John 8: 11 and Matthew 19: 16-22, before reading the documents, so that you might be better prepared to receive their contents without bias. Much of the coverage — both secular and Catholic — has been presented in such a way as to enflame our emotions which inhibits our ability to hear the voice of Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life or to objectively apply our reason to the arguments.

For more than 40 years, Courage's mission has been to proclaim the Truth of Jesus Christ, as handed on to us by our Holy Mother Church. Particularly her teachings on sexuality, the identity of the human person, complementarity of the sexes or masculinity and femininity, and what it means to be beloved children of God. Likewise, our apostolate has always proclaimed the call of the Gospel to everyone of God's children to live a life of chastity and virtue that best fulfills their vocation in life. What we may be known best for is the charitable, merciful, and compassionate pastoral care we have offered and have encouraged others to offer to our brothers and sisters who experience same-sex attraction.

With God's help, we will continue proclaiming and "living the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), we will always be faithful to the Holy Catholic Church, and we shall remain so by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and by humble obedience to Christ's Vicar on Earth, the Pope.

Please keep us in your prayers and be assured that we will be praying for you too.

Humbly and in Love,



Fr. Kyle Schnippel, interim executive director  
Fr. Colin Blatchford, associate director  
Courage International Staff

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Full text of *Fiducia Supplicans* (December 18, 2023): [https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_ddf\\_doc\\_20231218\\_fiducia-supplicans\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_ddf_doc_20231218_fiducia-supplicans_en.html)

Clarification from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (January 4, 2024): [https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_ddf\\_doc\\_20240104\\_comunicato-fiducia-supplicans\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_ddf_doc_20240104_comunicato-fiducia-supplicans_en.html)

Recommended Commentaries

[USCCB Statement](#)

[Papal General Audience January 3rd](#) (provides further context)

[Bishop Cozzens](#), Diocese of Crookston