

## FOREWORD

Since the publication of *Into the Breach*, on the Feast of the Archangels last year, I have been grateful for the feedback of so many faithful priests, deacons, husbands, wives, mothers and fathers. Their gratitude echoes my own gratitude for their generous embrace of faithfulness and fruitfulness in their vocations. It is a sign to me that the Holy Spirit is at work among us, tilling the soil that needs only the *Joy of the Gospel* spread as seeds by the Church, preparing the hearts of Catholic men for deeper commitment to faith, hope and charity.

Among the respondents was a generous father of seven and parish leader of men, Anthony Castellano, who saw the need for a study guide for the exhortation in order to bring it to life more fruitfully among the men he leads in his parish men's group. I am grateful to Anthony for providing a high-quality guide and for working with Mike Phelan, our Diocese of Phoenix Director of Marriage and Respect Life, to provide this aid to further reflection on the spiritual battle of our time, and our mission of Christ-like, magnanimous and courageous love of those the Lord has given us to serve.

This desire of men to battle for a great cause has its true fulfillment in the world in the spiritual realm. *"For we are not contending with flesh and blood, but against the principalities, the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."* (Ephesians 6:12) When we have eyes to see, we sense all around us the need to engage courageously. True engagement and victory in this battle depend on our complete trust in the Lord and His Church's teaching, in firm hope of human flourishing with His grace, and with complete assurance of the ultimate victory having already been won!

I encourage those of you in leadership roles to use the *Forward! Into the Breach* compendium workbook for men's groups and to pray for a renewal of virtuous masculinity and lively commitment to Christ in Catholic men. When we live this commitment, we realize that no greater adventure exists.

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