



Courage & EnCourage
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ENCOURAGE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing Chapter

When: **Sunday October 21, 2012 from 2:30 to 4:00pm**

Where: **Holy Spirit Catholic Church
9565 Musch Rd.
Brighton, Michigan 48116**

Directions: US-23 to Silver Lake Rd. Exit (exit #55) West on Silver Lake Rd. to Whitmore Lake Rd. (a short distance). South on Whitmore Lake Rd. to Winans Lake Rd.(a three way stop). West on Winans Lake Rd. approximately one mile to entrance marked with a sign for Holy Spirit Cemetery and Holy Spirit Rectory and School. Turn left. We meet in portable classroom number four. Look for Encourage Meeting signs.

We decided this month to re-enclose the very meaningful prayer the *Chaplet of the Precious Blood*. We use this prayer on Thursdays in our prayers of reparation. We have taken the liberty to adjust the prayer a bit to fit the needs of our prayer time, and we hope that you too will begin to make this prayer a regular part of your prayer week. Unfortunately, the author of the prayer remains a mystery that we would very much like to solve. If you know the author, please let us know so proper credit can be given.

We have also enclosed with this month's letter an essay on why gay marriage is not marriage. With this being an important moral and political issue, not only in our country but also in other countries, we thought that it was particularly relevant. The author, of whom I also know very little, writes with clarity and conciseness on a topic that is at the very root of the survival of our civilization.

We also want to remind you that all the talks from the past Annual Conference are available on DVD and CD. They can be obtained on line at www.couragerc.org or by phone at 1-203-803-1564. If you would like a succinct explanation of the ministry of Courage and EnCourage I would suggest the DVD *Portraits in Courage*.

Speaking of the Annual Conference, Dan, the Master of Ceremony at this year's conference and author of a previous enclosure titled *Why I Don't Call Myself a Gay Christian* is scheduled to appear on Catholic Answer Radio at 6:00pm on November 2nd. You can hear the interview on www.catholic.com/radio

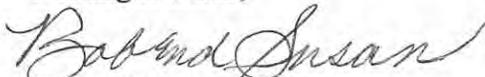
Remember please that we unite to pray each Thursday to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in reparation for our sins and the sins against human sexuality such as same-sex behavior and abortion. Reparation is making amends for the wrongs committed through our sinful condition. Additionally, we pray as intercessors for all our loved ones who will, like the prodigal, someday return home. We generally follow the model given to us by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the booklet *Holy Hour of Reparation* published by CMJ Marian Publishers. If you would like a copy of the booklet, we have a small supply in our office or you can order one by calling the publisher at 1-888-636-6799. Another beautiful prayer is the *Chaplet of the Precious Blood* that is enclosed with this letter. "That the necessity of reparation is especially urgent today must be evident to everyone who considers the present plight of the world, 'seated in wickedness'. The Sacred Heart of Jesus promised to St. Margaret Mary that He would reward abundantly with His graces all those who should render this honor to His Heart." (Pope Pius XI Encyclical *Miserentissimus*)

Please note if you cannot attend the October 21st meeting, our next regular meeting is November 18th.

For more information regarding our meetings, or to talk about the issue of same-sex attraction in your lives, call our Diocesan office at 517-342-2596 or email us at caverart@comcast.net Your donation to help defray the cost of sending this letter and enclosure is always welcome and can be sent to the Diocese of Lansing.

We look forward to meeting with you. Let us remember, however, to always respect the right of each to complete confidentiality.

Trusting in Jesus,



Bob and Susan Cavera

The Past must be abandoned to God's mercy,
The Present to our fidelity,
The Future left to Divine Providence.

St. Francis deSales

Obama-- "Gay Marriage" is NOT Marriage. Here's Why.

By Monica Migliorino Miller, Ph.D.



As a pro-life leader, theologian, wife and mother I feel it is necessary for me to finally weigh-in on the issue of so-called “gay marriage” in light of Obama’s recently-declared support for same-sex so-called “marital” unions.

This article is not a full-blown treatise on the subject. I intend here to provide a concise argument as to why same-sex sexual activity is not the moral, social, cultural equal to heterosexual marital unions—and thus should not be granted equal status in law. In addition, I will also explain who or what is to blame for the moral and intellectual break-down on the subject of marriage represented by the current advocacy for “gay marriage.”

Legal recognition of homosexual bonds as marital bonds ultimately means that gender, human sexuality, being a husband or a wife, motherhood and fatherhood have no objective moral meaning. This also means that the family itself has no objective moral meaning. The moral law rooted in nature is completely dissolved. There are no longer any natural familial moral bonds, thus no longer any natural moral ties and thus no natural moral responsibilities arising from the very nature of the family.

If the bond between two men or two women may be considered the equivalent of the one-flesh marital unity between a man and a woman, a bond that gives rise to the family, we are then saying that all human ties are strictly a matter of the will—only when *persons choose* to be connected to one another—by emotional, legal or artificial contrivance—that they are then connected. And if the fundamental building block of society, namely the family, is essentially a matter of choice, those choices can be undone by personal will. The family simply becomes an arrangement of the will—no one is in *essence* a mother, a father, a husband or wife. The family unit is turned into a mere fragile arrangement of personal volition. Indeed, being a husband or wife, mother or father is nominal, not real.

The family is no longer a unit cemented by innate natural familial bonds that actually cause persons to *be* mother and child, brother and sister—essential identities imbedded in nature itself that produce innate responsibilities to which persons who have such identities must be held accountable. Nothing here should be interpreted to mean that sterile couples who adopt children are not parents. Their heterosexual marital unity, unlike “gay marriage” participates in the truth of marriage and is a public sign of that truth. Their sexual unity is oriented towards life in a way that “gay marriage” can never be.

It is simply a lie that lesbian or homosexual sexual activity is equivalent to sexual activity between a wedded man and woman. I will even go on and say that making them equivalent is an insult to the very meaning of marriage and the family. Gay sex, is self-

enclosed, of itself sterile and a societal dead-end. Since the family cannot come from such sex—the government does not have a compelling interest in protecting such unions.

Why must the law protect marriage—and when I say “marriage” I mean, of course, the lifelong bond between a man and a woman upon which the family is built? Sex between a married man and woman is categorically different from gay sex. It is sex that confirms the meaning of masculinity and femininity—and it is sex that confers responsibilities that arise from the commitment of husbands and wives, especially when, from such sexual acts, new human beings are conceived. Society, *indeed the entire future of the world*, depends on these kinds of stable sexual unions that provide the necessary innate security for children. For this reason alone, the government has an interest in protecting marriage.

Society is *not* the consequence of arbitrary self-willed human relationships. Marriage is the first building block that creates, not only brothers and sisters, but future marriages that produce cousins, nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, grandfathers, grandmothers, great grandfathers and mothers, as well as great uncles and aunts. Laws do not create these worlds—innate natural bonds create these worlds—worlds that of themselves cause human identity and human responsibilities. Absolutely nothing can replace such natural world-building! And the law cannot create the moral responsibilities that come from such bonds—it can only call persons to live up to them! Again, for this reason, government has an interest in protecting marriage.

How did we come to this point—that homosexual bonds should be considered the equivalent of marriage? The truth must be told. It is indeed the heterosexual community that is to blame, not homosexuals. Heterosexuals have given up on the meaning of human sexuality. Heterosexuals are the ones who no longer believe in marriage. We have said so with 50 years of contraception, unquestioned sexual activity outside of marriage, living together without marriage, rampant divorce, including no-fault divorce, rampant out-of-wedlock pregnancies, artificial reproduction—and then add to this— 40 years of abortion. Heterosexuals have already said that sex, marriage and the family have no meaning—they become what we subjectively, privately, by a sheer matter of the will, say they are—and nothing more. We simply have no moral, cultural place to stand upon which we may say that homosexuals can’t call what they do “marriage.” After all, most heterosexual activity isn’t marriage either! It too is dead-end sex that cannot carry the world into the future.

What is the answer ultimately? If we really want to fight a battle against “gay marriage” the heterosexual community needs to get its act together. We can’t carry on the way we have—we cannot privatize our sexual ethical behavior and then claim that the government needs to publicly protect what’s left of the institution of marriage. This healing of the sexual ethic is primary the work of the Church—a Church that greatly contributed to the cultural moral demise by remaining silent on contraception and by

allowing Catholic politicians to support legalized abortion with ecclesial impunity. Is it any wonder that the likes of Catholic Nancy Pelosi, who supports legalized killing of the unborn contrary to the teachings of the Church, lauds Obama's support for "gay marriage" also contrary to the teachings of the Church and, like Obama, even dares to say that this is the Christian thing to do!

And in some ways this is the most odious and insulting aspect of the entire debacle. Obama justified his position that "gay marriage" should be legally recognized by wrapping it in the Christian religion. He said that his so-called evolution on the subject was the consequence of his Christian faith and he told ABC News: "It's also the Golden Rule, you know, treat others the way you would want to be treated." So with such deep critical thinking—how can we deny homosexuals access to a right that heterosexuals enjoy? It just isn't fair.

Unfortunately Obama failed to quote Christ's own doctrine on marriage: "Have you not read that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female and declared: 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and the two shall become one' Thus they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, let no man separate what God has joined" (Mt. 19: 4-6). Jesus, in the next passages, even dares to forbid divorce and remarriage.

For Obama the Golden Rule is real doctrine and Christ's view on marriage merely His opinion that may be set aside. I mean, if the president is going to quote the Bible in an attempt to dismantle the God-given meaning of marriage it would only be truly fair and honest of him to acknowledge Christ's specific view on the subject.

Obama's application of the Golden Rule in this case is completely misplaced. Of course Christ called us to: "treat others as you would wish to be treated." But if society seriously accepted Obama's invocation of the Golden Rule we would have to advocate all sorts of irrationalities. After all, saying gays have the right to marry as do heterosexuals is like saying that not only those who excel at running the 100 meters but even poor runners have just as much right to compete in the Olympics—since all that matters is that the poor runners also love the sport and wish to participate in it as much as the good runners. Obama's application of the gospel is like saying those who are tone deaf should be allowed to sing at major concert halls, since such persons may actually love and have an appreciation for music—even more than those who actually have the ability to sing. After all, if Obama really put his version of the Golden Rule into practice then track stars and great vocalists must allow poor runners and bad singers to do what they do since Christ said: "treat others as you would wish to be treated." Obama's Golden Rule is not about love and acceptance at all, rather it's a means by which the truth is distorted. Thus Obama's gospel is not the Wisdom of Christ, but an invitation to insanity.

We must recognize that we are in a war for the truth, and it is a moral battle. This is not a time to be afraid to speak the truth. But speak always the truth in love—recognizing that homosexual persons have God-given dignity and basic human rights—and those rights must never be denied. But they simply do not have the right to marry—they do not have the rights to the privileges of marriage. Those who publicly defend marriage are going to be misunderstood, called names, mocked, belittled and derided. Nonetheless, those who understand what is at stake cannot hold back—the truth must be defended and marriage fought for—as civilization itself depends upon this sacred institution.

CHAPLET OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

adapted for the Ministries of Courage and EnCourage
author unknown

The Chaplet consists of seven mysteries in which we meditate on the seven principal blood sheddings of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.

Opening Prayer:

Lord, we come before you today to offer this chaplet on behalf of all men and women who carry the burden of same-sex attraction in their lives. We pray that they may commit to a life of chastity, find healing through your grace, and consolation in your love for them. We bring before you all the Christian faithful, especially our church and government leaders, that they may offer continual compassion and support for these souls in your truth, that not one of your sheep may be lost to the false promises of the gay lifestyle, and that no one may carry this burden alone. Help each of us here today to be open to your call at all times, that we may be bold, and ever ready to see and love you in our brother or sister who we see struggling against the sin of homosexual behavior, or trapped in the snares of the gay lifestyle. We would especially like to remember _____ in prayer, and thank you for calling us to do your will, remembering that whatsoever we do for the least of our brothers, we do for you. Amen.

V. O God, come to my assistance!

R. Lord, make haste to help me!

V. Glory be to the Father----

R. As it was in the beginning---

Response Following Each Mystery

- Announce and read the mystery
- Our Father---
- Incline unto my aid, O God – O Lord, make haste to help me.
- Glory be to the Father-----
- We beseech thee, therefore, help thy servants –Whom thou has redeemed by thy precious blood.

First Mystery

Jesus shed his blood in the Circumcision

Lord, we pray that all men and women who experience same-sex attraction, will receive the grace to discover and commit to a life of chastity in body and soul. Give them your consolation and strength, and may your most Sacred Heart be a refuge for them in times of temptation and trial in this world.

Second Mystery

Jesus shed his blood while praying in the Garden of Olives.

Lord, we pray for all members of Courage and other Christian spiritual support ministries for SSA, that through perseverance in prayer, each of them may come to know you intimately, and discern clearly your will for their lives until they are welcomed victoriously into your heavenly kingdom.

Third Mystery

Jesus shed his blood in the scourging.

Lord, we pray that you may call many Christians to SSA ministry in a spirit of mortification and penance, that through dying to self and cooperating with your grace, they may become an

instrument of salvation for many souls from the eternal punishment due to sins of homosexual behavior. May we be always ready to lay down our lives and be scourged by the world for our brothers and sisters with SSA, when and wherever you may call us to do so.

Fourth Mystery

Jesus shed his blood in the crowning with thorns.

Lord, we pray for all men and women who are living or promoting the gay lifestyle, that they may be given contempt for worldly honors. We know it is pride that is the deadliest of sins, and so in removing the false pride of worldly honors, may these men and women find the courage to step away from a way of life that could never be pleasing to you or bring them happiness. Help them to find freedom in your truth, that they may be crowned for the virtue of purity in heaven.

Fifth Mystery

Jesus shed his blood while carrying his cross.

Lord, we pray for all Christians, that they may be granted the patience and wisdom to recognize SSA for what it is – an unwanted disorder and temptation that causes great suffering – that they may approach all individuals with same-sex attraction with compassion and love, continually praying for their salvation and strength in carrying this cross.

Sixth Mystery

Jesus shed his blood in the crucifixion.

Lord, we pray for those who are in the process of leaving the gay lifestyle, that they may have a true contrition for their sins that keeps them from going back. Help them to persevere through alienation, abandonment, betrayal, insecurity, and other trials this transition may hold for them. May you yourself be their consolation and their joy as they find peace and freedom in being crucified to their old life that they may live truly in you.

Seventh Mystery

Jesus shed his blood and water when his side was pierced.

Lord, we pray for the members of EnCourage and all family and friends of SSA individuals, that they may persevere in praying for their loved ones, and find consolation and hope in that great promise of Our Lord: "Seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened, ask and it shall be given unto you."

Final Prayer

Eternal Father, We offer you the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in satisfaction for our sins, for the needs of Holy Church and for the relief of the souls in Purgatory.

We pray also for the spread of the Courage and EnCourage Ministries. Guide and protect them from the attack of the evil one. Grant all us, your servants and church militant, the COURAGE we each need to persevere in doing your will here on earth, that when the battle is done and our sacrifices have been joined to yours, we may hear the voice of Our Heavenly Father saying: "Well done good and faithful servant. Enter, now, into the joy of your Master." Amen