



Courage & Encourage
228 North Walnut Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933-1122
517-342-2596
Facsimile: 517.342.2468
caverart@comcast.net

ENCOURAGE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING
Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing Chapter

When: Sunday January 16, 2011 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 write to you this month with heavy hearts. Our dear friend and mentor, the Founding Director of the Courage and Encourage Apostolate, Fr. John Harvey O.S.F.S., has died. Father passed away on Monday, December 27th, on the feast day of St. John the Evangelist and beloved disciple, and was buried on Friday, December 31st. Soon after his retirement, Father went to live with many of his fellow Oblates in Childs, Maryland and it was there that he died at the age of 92. This humble and gentle priest never flinched from proclaiming the truth to all who would listen, and for many he was, indeed, the 'person of Christ'. We will miss him. We have included with this letter a tribute to Fr. Harvey written by a Courage member. His eloquent and heartfelt message captures the sentiment that all of us feel.

We have also enclosed a letter to you from Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York and Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, CT. explaining the change in location of the main office. Additionally, on the reverse side of the letter is an update on the progress of the transition as well as current news regarding the apostolate. It is so very fitting that Fr. Harvey introduces the explanation of the transition with a special message.

Our last two letters to you have included a recommendation of books and we thought we would continue this month by recommending the last book that Fr. Harvey had published. The book *Homosexuality and the Catholic Church: Clear*

Answers to Difficult Questions addresses the current challenges confronting those with same-sex attraction and their loved ones. The book is available from Ascension Press. Another recommendation would be the DVD *A Profile In Courage*. It is the biography of Fr. Harvey produced in 2009 and is as inspirational as it is informative. Contact the Courage office for a copy.

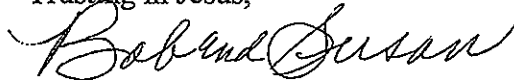
Remember please that we unite to pray each Thursday to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in reparation for our sins and the sins against human sexuality such as same-sex behavior and abortion. Reparation is making amends for the wrongs committed through our sinful condition. Additionally, we pray as intercessors 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. "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 January 16th meeting, **our next regular meeting is February 20, 2011.**

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

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

"Praise be God, the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation! He comforts us in all our afflictions and thus enables us to comfort those who are in trouble, with the same consolation we have received from Him."

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

Reverend John Harvey
A reflection
by
Patrick A. Floriani (pajjf@yahoo.com),
a Courage Member

The body of Reverend John F. Harvey, O.S.F.S.,
our Founding Director of Courage, was laid to rest
Friday, 31 December 2010 on
the grounds of his religious order in Childs, Maryland.
For those who were unable to attend, you were with us.

Father now dwells with our beloved departed and walks
among our Courage and Encourage family. He sees his dear
parents and his old friend Peter Rudegeair. Cardinal Cooke
John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Saints Francis de Sales and
Jane Frances de Chantal are among the many of Paradise's citizens enjoying
their new life with Father John.

And in the long receiving line of Heaven which ends with
The Evangelists, The Twelve, The Herald and The Foster-Father,
stands The Ever-Immaculate and Sinless Virgin who presents him to The
Priest, The Altar and The Lamb of Sacrifice – our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is
risen from the dead. Here He reigns with Our Father and Their Great Spirit
in perpetual peace amidst angelic choirs, while the aroma of incense and
lilies fills the palace.

Our Redeemer smiles, rises from His golden throne and embraces Father
Harvey. Then, in turn, He presents Father to the vast assembly who receive
him with a standing ovation.

*Life is for seeking God.
Death is the moment when we find God.
Eternity is the possession of God.*

*Saint Francis de Sales
1567 - 1622*



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are pleased to announce the opening of a new chapter in the history of Courage, as the main office of the apostolate moves from St. John the Baptist in Manhattan, to the parish grounds of St. Mary Church in Norwalk, CT. This change will enable Fr. John Harvey's successor, Fr. Paul Check, a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT, to conduct his full time work as Executive Director in a manner that will best serve Courage, while fulfilling the part-time responsibilities assigned to him by his Bishop.

In addition, though the office at St. John the Baptist has been a good home for Courage for many years, the scope of the apostolate has now grown well beyond what that space could reasonably support.

The Archdiocese of New York will continue to provide spiritual and financial support to this vital ministry in the Church established by the Servant of God, Terence Cardinal Cooke. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan will serve as one of the founding members of the new non-profit corporation in Connecticut.

For its part, the Diocese of Bridgeport warmly welcomes the headquarters of Courage, which will likewise offer support and encouragement. Bishop William E. Lori will also act as a founding member of the new non-profit corporation. Bishop Lori also earnestly desires to promote the work of Courage, now at the service of the wider Church.

We commend Courage for its long, faithful, and effective service to persons with a homosexual inclination and to their families. As we read in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection" (n. 2359). Helping to fulfill this calling and faithful to the teaching of the Church, Courage provides much needed support and assistance for living the Gospel with integrity and generosity.

We believe that this move will allow Courage to assist an ever increasing population that deserves the care of this unique and crucial apostolate.

The Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of New York

The Most Reverend William E. Lori
Bishop of Bridgeport

2010 – Courage in Transition

**Your Christmas gift
brings help and hope
through Courage**

A Message from Fr. John Harvey

“Several years ago, I asked Bishop Lori to release Fr Paul Check to serve as my successor, and I am very grateful that—after three requests—he finally and graciously agreed. Fr Check enjoys my full confidence and support as he guides Courage to a new chapter, one that both builds on all of the work and fidelity of so many members over the past 30 years, and that helps to respond to an ever-growing need for the Church's pastoral response to homosexuality. I believe that the relocation of the office to Connecticut, with its expanded staff and outreach, is in keeping with the original charism of the apostolate confided to the Servant of God, Terence Cardinal Cooke, in 1980, since Courage is now ever more at the service of the universal Church.”

A Moving Target is Hard to Hit

Since Fr. Check assumed his role as full-time Executive Director of Courage, his priority has been to raise awareness among priests and seminarians. In the past year Father gave Courage talks to priests and seminarians at: Sacred Heart, Detroit; Holy Apostles, Cromwell, CT; Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, Waverly and Clinton, NE; and at these Dioceses: Arlington, VA, Marquette, MI, Toledo, OH, Covington, KY. In addition he led the North American Courage Conference with 300 attending, and the three day Courage-Latino conference in Guadalajara, Mexico, where 250 people attended. While in Mexico, Father Check spoke live about the apostolate on both radio and TV programs. He also spoke at a Catholic Citizens of Illinois lunch program, and on December 3, he spent a lively hour on radio with Catholic Answers Live – check the archives at catholic.com.

Status of the Move to Connecticut

The Courage headquarters relocated from its office at St. John the Baptist in New York on September 30, 2010, and is now located at 8 Leonard St., Norwalk CT. 06850. The phone is 203-803-1564. For now our e-mail address remains nycourage@aol.com.

Staff, Structure and Governance

This year has brought many changes to the apostolate. Although retired to the Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Retirement Center in Maryland, as our Director Emeritus, and at the direction of our Episcopal Members, Fr. Harvey continues to provide us with trusted advice and counsel. None of our much-loved and very faithful staff or volunteers is relocating to Connecticut, although Angelo continues to consult for us during the transition, and Tina continues as our webmaster. Angelo, Pat, Sr. Dolores, Ken M., Richard C., and Jim B. will all be sorely missed. Thank you all for your devoted service to this apostolate.

Our new Business Manager is Jerry Lambert, who is in the diaconate program in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Welcome aboard, Jerry!

The new Board of Directors consists of Fr. Paul Scalia (Chairman, longtime Courage Chaplain, and Pastor of St. John the Beloved Parish, McLean VA), Fr. James Knapp SJ (Theology Professor and longtime Courage Chaplain in St. Louis MO), Dr. Tim Lock, (clinical psychologist), Mrs. Marylee MacDougall (Treasurer and former Diocesan Chancellor) and Fr. Paul Check (Executive Director, ex-officio).

The by-laws also provide for a Body of Members, who provide governance and impart ecclesial authority. Archbishop Timothy Dolan (of New York and newly elected President of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), Bishop William Lori (Bridgeport, CT), Bishop John LeVoir, (New Ulm, MN), and Bishop Salvatore Cordileone (Oakland, CA) comprise that body for Courage, along with Fr. Check (ex-officio).

Future Plans in Development

The following projects are under consideration or even underway!

- Website Upgrade
- Newsletter and Communications
- Advisory Boards and Volunteers made up of Courage and EnCourage Members
- Spiritual Formation for Lay Leadership
- Support for Chaplains
- Addressing Chapter Stability
- Addressing the Teen Demographic