



Courage & EnCourage  
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## ENCOURAGE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing Chapter

When: **Sunday January 20, 2013 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 are very pleased to announce that we will have a special guest at our January meeting. Robin Beck, author of *I Just Came For Ashes*, will share her journey out of Lesbianism and into Catholicism. We had the privilege of meeting Robin at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit where we had been invited to address the seminarians. She is a delight, and we know that you will enjoy and benefit from her story.

The two enclosures accompanying the letter seemed to us to be particularly relevant. The article *Setting The Record Straight....* attempts to explain the misconceptions regarding therapy and treatment that were presented on a recent Dr. Oz Show. The author is a psychologist and accurately explains the NARTH position on this subject. Those appearing on the show representing therapy for homosexuality were attacked and maligned, and the author shares a reasoned response.

The second enclosure addresses the topic of "gay marriage". There have been a plethora of articles in the secular and Catholic press addressing the topic of re-defining marriage. Recently, one of our EnCourage parents sent us a copy of the letter by the Most Reverend Thomas J. Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield Illinois to Catholics in his Diocese. Lawmakers in the State of Illinois are attempting to pass "The

Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act.” It is a clear and malevolent threat to religious liberty and marriage. In a brief space, the Bishop succinctly explains and illuminates the issue.

**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 available upon request. “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 20th meeting, our next regular meeting is February 17, 2013.

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](mailto: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

May the Lord rouse up his might and always come to our help.

Psalm 80:3



## Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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Office of the Bishop

January 2, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our state's elected lawmakers will soon consider a bill called "The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act." A more fraudulent title for this dangerous measure could not be imagined. The proposed law is, in truth, a grave assault upon *both* religious liberty *and* marriage. All people of goodwill, and especially Christ's faithful committed to my pastoral care in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, should resolutely oppose this bill and make their opinions known to their representatives.

The pending bill would, for the first time in our state's history, redefine marriage to legally recognize same-sex "marriages." But neither two men nor two women – nor, for that matter, three or more people – can possibly form a marriage. Our law would be lying if it said that they could.

The basic structure of marriage as the exclusive and lasting relationship of a man and a woman, committed to a life which is fulfilled by having children, is given to us in human nature, and thus by nature's God. Notwithstanding the vanity of human wishes, every society in human history – including every society untouched by Jewish or Christian revelation – has managed to grasp this profound truth about human relationships and happiness: marriage is the union of man and woman.

The bill's sponsors maintain that it would simply extend marriage to some people who have long been arbitrarily excluded from it. They are wrong. The pending bill would not expand the eligibility-roster for marriage. *It would radically redefine what marriage is – for everybody.*

It would enshrine in our law – and thus in public opinion and practice – three harmful ideas:

1. What essentially makes a marriage is romantic-emotional union.
2. Children don't need both a mother and father.
3. The main purpose of marriage is adult satisfactions.

These ideas would deepen the sexual revolution's harms on all society. After all, if marriage is an emotional union meant for adult satisfactions, why should it be sexually exclusive? Or limited to two? Or pledged to permanence? If children don't need both their mother and father, why should fathers stick around when romance fades? As marriage is redefined, it becomes harder for people to see the point of these profoundly important marital norms, to live by them, and to encourage others to do the same. The resulting instability hurts spouses, but also – and especially – children, who do best when reared by their committed mother and father.

Indeed, children's need—and right—to be reared by the mother and father whose union brought them into being explains why our law has recognized marriage as a conjugal partnership—the union of husband and wife—at all. Our lawmakers have understood that marriage is naturally oriented to procreation, to *family*. Of course, marriage also *includes* a committed, intimate relationship of a sort which some same-sex couples (or multiple lovers in groups of three or more) might imitate. But our law never recognized and supported marriage in order to regulate intimacy for its own sake. The reason marriage is recognized in civil law at all (as ordinary friendships, or other sacraments, are not) is specific to the committed, intimate relationships of opposite-sex couples: they are by nature oriented to having children. Their love-making acts are life-giving acts.

Same-sex relationships lack this unique predicate of state recognition and support. Even the most ideologically blinded legislator cannot change this natural fact: the sexual acts of a same-sex couple (regardless of how one views them morally) are simply not of the type that yield the gift of new life. So they cannot extend a union of hearts by a true bodily union. They cannot turn a friendship into the one-flesh union of marriage. They are not marital. This is not just a Christian idea, but one common to every major religious tradition and our civilization's great philosophical traditions, beginning with ancient Greece and Rome.

The pending bill is not only a dangerous social experiment about marriage. It is also a lethal attack upon religious liberty. This so-called "religious freedom" bill would not stop the state from obligating the Knights of Columbus to make their halls available for same-sex "weddings." It would not stop the state from requiring Catholic grade schools to hire teachers who are legally "married" to someone of the same sex. This bill would not protect Catholic hospitals, charities, or colleges, which exclude those so "married" from senior leadership positions. Nor would it protect me, the Bishop of Springfield, if I refused to employ someone in a same-sex "marriage" who applied to the Diocese for a position meant to serve my ministry as your bishop. This "religious freedom" law does nothing at all to protect the consciences of people in business, or who work for the government. We saw the harmful consequences of deceptive titles all too painfully last year when the so-called "Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act" forced Catholic Charities out of foster care and adoption services in Illinois.

These threats do not raise a question about drafting a better law, one with more extensive conscience protections. There is no possible way — *none whatsoever* — for those who believe that marriage is exclusively the union of husband and wife to avoid legal penalties and harsh discriminatory treatment if the bill becomes law. Why should we expect it to be otherwise? After all, we would be people who, according to the thinking behind the bill, hold onto an "unfair" view of marriage. The state would have equated our view with bigotry—which it uses the law to marginalize in every way short of criminal punishment.

The only way to protect religious liberty, and to preserve marriage, is to defeat this perilous proposal. Please make sure our elected representatives understand that and know that they will be held to account.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

# **Setting the Record Straight: What You Did Not Hear on a Recent Television Show Featuring NARTH**

Submitted by [Admin](#) on December 12, 2012 – 2:06 pm [No Comment](#)

## **Setting the Record Straight: What You Did Not Hear on a Recent Television Show Featuring NARTH**

Julie Hamilton, Ph.D.

As we have seen repeatedly, there is a great deal of censorship within the media. Misconceptions related to the treatment of unwanted homosexuality abound, and attempts to replace the misconceptions with accurate information are often unsuccessful. When I appeared on a popular television talk show recently, almost all of what I said on that show was deleted. Since viewers only saw one side of the discussions in which I participated, I want to be clear on what I actually said.

First, it is important to note that the terminology used on the show has been greatly misused and largely misunderstood. NARTH does not use the term “Reparative Therapy” to refer to therapy for unwanted homosexual attractions. In actuality, “Reparative Therapy” only refers to one approach used by some therapists. However, there are many therapists who work with unwanted homosexual attractions, many of whom use combinations of other therapeutic methods. Therefore, a more inclusive term to describe this work would be therapy for unwanted homosexual attractions. It should also be noted that the term “reparative” never referred to trying to “repair” someone. It was originally used to refer to the “Reparative Theory” that when a child does not receive adequate same-sex bonding in childhood, homosexual attractions will develop as a “reparative drive” for those unmet needs. But again, there are many therapists who do not use the reparative therapy model, but instead use other models and theories. NARTH simply refers to this as therapy aimed at assisting with unwanted homosexual attractions, because that’s what it is: mainstream psychotherapy.

Next, here is a summary of the information that was edited out of the recent daytime talk show:

### 1. What is this therapy and how does it work?

First, we know from the research that people are not simply born homosexual. Researchers on both sides of the debate have acknowledged that, as does the American Psychological Association. It seems clear that homosexuality is a complex combination of nurture and nature. It is also clear that homosexual attractions are NOT a choice.

While there are many options for help available, NARTH represents licensed, ethical therapists who practice mainstream approaches to therapy in their offices. When we are talking about therapy, we are NOT referring to unorthodox approaches, nor are we referring to ministries, retreats, residential programs or any other form of help other than conventional therapy offered by licensed professionals in their offices.

Therapists who do this work include psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed mental health counselors, and licensed marriage and family therapists. There are many of these therapists throughout this country and other countries, who have been trained in traditional institutions, who offer help to this population.

Therapy is aimed at dealing with whatever issues the client presents, not specifically the attractions. Issues may include lack of self-acceptance, gender insecurity, childhood traumas, broken family relationships, lack of attachment, lack of peer bonding, sexual abuse, etc.

## 2. What are the success rates?

Success rates have been found to be similar to other therapeutic issues. Success differs among clients. For some, success may mean change of behavior or change of identity. For others it may mean a decrease of homosexual attractions and for others an increase of heterosexual attractions. As with any other therapeutic issue, success DOES NOT mean complete removal of the problem, never to return again. Such is success with any therapeutic issue. For example, if someone is treated successfully for depression, success does not mean the person will never have another bout of depression for the rest of his or her life. The issue of unwanted homosexual attractions is no different.

## 3. What about people who claim to have been hurt by therapy?

It is very devastating when a person seeks treatment and has negative results. I am very sorry that this sometimes happens. Unfortunately, we see with therapy in general – therapy for any issue – that 5-10% of clients will experience negative outcomes. This is unfortunate, but this is just the nature of therapy for ANY issue. Therapy does work for a lot of people, but not everyone is helped through therapy and some people have negative results.

(Although researchers have tried to draw a correlation between therapy for unwanted homosexuality and harm, they have not been able to establish such a correlation. We hear anecdotal stories of harm, but there are no scientific findings that feelings of suicide and depression actually arise from the therapy itself – even though biased researchers have tried, unsuccessfully, to prove otherwise.)

Sadly, we see much higher levels of depression and suicide among homosexuals than among the non-homosexual population. Some will claim that these higher rates of suicide and depression are the result of homophobia (or therapy, as claimed on the show). HOWEVER, we know that the suicide rates are not simply due to homophobia because we see the same rates of depression and suicide in gay-affirming cultures such as New Zealand, Denmark, The Netherlands, and Norway.

Although this was not mentioned on the show, here is some additional information related to the banning of therapy for minors in California:

1. This legislation completely disregards the hundreds of teenagers who, prior to ever entering therapy, experience depression and hopelessness due to feeling trapped by

attractions they did not ask for and do not want. These minors desire help for their unwanted attractions.

2. This legislation does not make considerations for bisexual teenagers or females, the latter of which are clearly known to have a great deal of sexual fluidity – changing from straight to gay or gay to straight more frequently than do homosexual males. Although change is common for bisexuals and lesbians, they will be denied the option of therapy.
3. This legislation completely discounts and disrespects people of all conservative faith traditions: devout Muslims, orthodox Jews, and Christians of most conservative denominations, including both Catholics and Protestants. For these individuals homosexual feelings are at odds with their faith, and many of these people choose to prioritize their faith or their relationship with God above their sexual attractions. However, they will be denied help for doing so.
4. This legislation is a direct assault on individual liberty and personal freedom.
5. This legislation, initiated by Equality California is based in politics and not at all on the scientific research. The research has never concluded that this therapy is harmful. According to the American Psychological Association, “There are no scientifically rigorous studies of recent SOCE that would enable us to make a definitive statement about whether recent SOCE is safe or harmful and for whom” (Report of the APA Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses To Sexual Orientation, 2009, p. 83).

As the late Dr. Dean Byrd used to say, “People are entitled to their opinions, but they are not entitled to their facts.” Some individuals may be of the opinion that this therapy is harmful, but the fact is that there is no research to support such a claim. Furthermore, many people have been helped by therapy for unwanted homosexual attractions, and to prevent others from pursuing help is truly a violation of client rights and personal freedom.